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BJP SEEKS ACTION

Shrinate's comment on Kangana triggers row

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In India, cycling is a matter of social justice

It is not another transport issue

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REGAL SHOW

Super Kings prove too strong for Titans

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High drama in Delhi as AAP, BJP hold protests

AAP leaders detained after they tried to march towards PM's residence on Lok Kalyan Marg to protest Arvind Kejriwal's arrest; BJP protesters head for Secretariat, demanding CM's resignation

Satvika Mahajan
Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday staged protests at opposite ends of central Delhi. While AAP leaders and workers took to the streets against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the excise policy case, the BJP protesters sought Mr. Kejriwal's resignation.

The AAP leaders, including Punjab Minister Harjot Singh Bains and Somnath Bharti, were detained as they attempted to march towards the Prime Minister's residence on Lok Kalyan Marg.

According to the Delhi Police, security was stepped up around Metro stations in central Delhi. DCP (New Delhi) Devesh Kumar said, "No permission was given for any kind of protest. Security has been intensified around the area as we also got information that protesters will gather at the Patel Chowk Metro station."

No holding back: Security personnel detain AAP workers during their protest in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) banning assembly has already been imposed around the Prime Minister's residence, an officer said.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, in a post on X said the entry and exit gates at the Lok Kalyan Marg Metro station have been closed due to security reasons.

Entry and exit have also been restricted at the Patel Chowk and Central Secretariat Metro stations, it added.

At least 57 BJP protesters, including the party's Delhi chief Virenda Sachdeva, were detained as party workers and leaders gathered near the Arun Jaitley Stadium and marched towards the Delhi Secretariat, demanding Mr. Kejriwal's resignation. The police said some BJP workers climbed over barricades during their march.

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Employment scenario in India grim, says ILO report

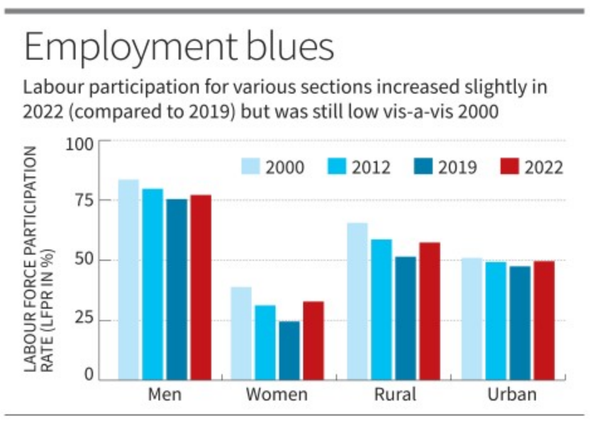
A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The share of those with secondary or higher education among the unemployed youth in India has almost doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022, according to the India Employment Report 2024 released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Institute of Human Development (IHD) here on Tuesday.

The report says that youngsters account for almost 83% of the country's unemployed workforce.

Employment and underemployment of the youth increased between 2000 and 2019 but declined during the pandemic years, the study, released by Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran, said, adding that educated youngsters experienced much higher levels of unemployment in the country during the period.

The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) showed a long-term deterioration between 2000 and 2018, but witnessed an improvement after 2019, the study said. It added that the improvement coincides with periods of economic distress.



"This improvement needs to be interpreted cautiously as jobs generated in the slowdown period raise questions about the drivers of these changes," the authors of the report said.

The report said India's job story over the past two decades had seen some paradoxical improvements in labour market indicators, while the basic long-term feature of the employment situation in the country continued to be insufficient growth of the non-farm sectors and the ability of these sectors to absorb workers from agriculture.

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Finally, it is Kumaraswamy for Mandya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While an official word is still awaited from the party, the core committee of the Janata Dal (Secular) on Tuesday decided that its State president and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy will be the candidate for the Mandya Lok Sabha constituency.

Though the party was divided over Mr. Kumaraswamy contesting the Lok Sabha election and many in the Channapatna Assembly segment, which he represents, were opposed to the idea, Mr. Kumaraswamy said it had become "inevitable" for him to contest this election from Mandya to "save the party".

The Vokkaliga heartland is expected to see a high-voltage poll battle where the Congress has fielded Venkatarame Gowda.

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A BG-BGE

Nirupama — understanding junior tennis and guiding future champions

A pioneer in Indian women's tennis, she is proud of her daughter's rise in the sport; she is upbeat about the health of the women's game in India

Kamesh Srinivasan

Nirupama Sanjeev is a pioneer in Indian women's tennis. From a simple background in Coimbatore and backed brilliantly by her visionary father K.S. Vaidyanathan, a First Class cricketer, Nirupama travelled around the world, competed in all the Grand Slams and reached a career-high 134 in singles and 115 in doubles.

She represented India in the Olympics, Asian Games and SAF Games, apart from the FedCup – now named the Billie Jean King Cup – with dedication and diligence.

Nirupama, settled in the United States, has been busy travelling with her daughter Sahana, sharing knowledge and helping her navigate the junior tennis world. She has also been doing commentary during the Grand Slams, apart from the Chennai Open, and has kept track of the game at the highest level.

Ever willing to support the tennis fraternity, especially in India, Nirupama has opened *tennisconsultation.com* to guide players and parents who field questions and seek expert advice.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Giving back to the game

Fluent and forthright, Nirupama put things in perspective while discussing her new venture.

"I have been getting a lot of requests from different people across the board... people I know, people I don't know. There are many common questions about college tennis, about where to start, going pro, what kind of tournaments and those kind of things. I do spend time with them already and decided to do it as a venture, putting things together, in a format. My daughter Sahana is going to college. I thought this would be a good way to spend time. I always wanted to give back to Indian tennis. Due to many reasons, I have not been able to do that. Now I can establish a platform and help players and parents to get some answers," Nirupama said.

She feels that there are so many variables that one has to deal with while pursuing tennis. The trick is to have the right tweak and understand what is best for one.

"There are so many nuances, and so many variables in this equation of tennis. It is about the training schedule, the match schedule, the recovery, the fitness, the nutrition, the mental aspect etc. There are so many things that have to come together, apart from finance, and apart from many other things like travel. Tweaking it all, making one higher, and some other thing lower is the key. I feel that I am in a good position to be able to give advice to people on all these aspects," she said.

Nirupama had been running Niru's tennis academy in California with her brother K.V. Ganesh for around 20 years. With her brother relocating to Florida, Nirupama ended that venture last year. She was also the Director of a country club, Tennis-Cheval, for about five years before she decided to focus fully on Sahana's tennis career.

Different dynamics

Watching junior tennis from close quarters has helped Nirupama understand the dynamics.

"I am kind of current, as I travel with Sahana. I know the cost associated with most of these things. I can be of help to tell them if it is doable with the finances that they have. What they have to do. As a mom, I want to know everything that I need to know. If Sahana wants to be a golfer or a pianist, I would seek expert support to know what I have to do to make her the best pianist or best golfer. I am in a unique situation to help people and I hope to help them," she said.

Nirupama was willing to look back at her career and see the path she had navigated.

"My career was amazing. With what I had available at that time, it was remarkable that I could get to where I could get. Travelling alone in Europe as an 18-year-old, now we are in that situation as my daughter is going to be 18 and ready for college. My parents were brave enough to send me to Europe. I lived alone there, and played all the tournaments. Forget the tennis, the whole safety issue, and so many things involved in my career. It made me the person that I was, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. To come out of that and be 134 in the world, playing all the Majors, it was very special. It would not have been possible without my dad, who was a visionary. He just told me that nothing was impossible. Never ever give up. To have had the leadership and guidance from him for a girl from a conservative background, I was blessed", she said.

Nirupama was coached by her father. She coaches her daughter Sahana. How does she compare the different times and methods.

"The thing today is that we can't shove things into the throat of our kids. We cannot force them to do anything. I just did not want to force tennis on Sahana. When she was only three or four, she had seen me compete in the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. So she had seen me compete at a high level. When she was nine or ten, she didn't show much interest in tennis.

"But, during Covid, there was a huge change that happened. We could not do many activities. Tennis was one of the activities that we could do in a healthy, safe environment. And we started hitting more, and she started showing more interest. At that point, Sahana said, 'Mom, I want to play tennis competitively'. Everything was kind of late for us. I started helping her more. Until then, she was playing tennis recreationally, twice or thrice a week. Only after the summer of 2020, did we actually get down to practising for competitive tennis," said Nirupama.

As a mom, Nirupama was very proud of the way Sahana chose her career path and made all efforts to reach her goal, capitalising on the best guidance.

"We started in 2021 with no rank. Now she is ranked 217. She won four singles titles and two doubles titles. She worked super hard in such a short span of time. Showed a lot of grit and determination. We still having things to improve. No one is perfect. I am proud of what she has achieved, with her hard work and resilience," she said.

The goal was to play college tennis and Sahana is ready to get into college.

"Her goal was to play for a very good academic college, and play at a good level. I am happy that she was able to pick the path for herself and go towards the goal and get it," she said.

Even though it has not been set as a goal yet, Nirupama felt that Sahana could venture into pro tennis at 23 or so.

"Pro tennis is a completely different animal! It is still possible for her at 23, when her body is more ready for pro tennis, and her mind is ready. It does not matter what I want. It is what the kid wants and we have to provide the tailor-made path for them", she said.

Nirupama made candid remarks about the quality of junior tennis.

"Junior tennis has not changed a whole lot. The quality is almost the same. Pro tennis has changed completely. I do feel that there was more variety in shots when I played. It is monotonous now. Everybody is very efficient. The quality of coaching is very high, in terms of technique. You don't see bad technique anywhere. It is amazing. In terms of strategy, or on court coaching, I feel like we had it slightly better. Everything is way more expensive now, but the prize money has also increased 10 times," she pointed out.

Recovery aspect

The most striking aspect of current tennis for Nirupama was the recovery aspect for the players.

"Recovery of the athlete is so much better now. I never knew of an ice bath. Massage is very common now. These are very basic things. There are so many advanced methods of recovery. That is part and parcel of a tennis players these days. That was a completely missing block when I was playing", she said.

Despite being busy with her daughter, Nirupama does keep an eye on Indian women's tennis. She does follow the deeds of Ankita Raina, Rutuja Bhosale, Sahaja Yamalapalli and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty to name a few.

"I was thrilled to read about the stunning conquests of Sahaja and Shrivalli when they beat the top two seeds in the WTA event in Mumbai recently. That would get them good points and help them believe that they belong there. They need to string a few of those victories together so that they can go further. Am very happy with their progress as they have won some titles as well recently. During the Chennai Open when I was doing commentary, I noticed that the girls playing tennis has risen so much. Women's tennis in India is looking pretty healthy. Lot of girls are playing tournaments out of the country. I do feel that some of them can use some guidance as to what tournaments to pick, and how to put it all together to get the best results. To understand their potential, and be able to get to their goals. Overall, I am just energised by the whole scenario," she said.

Nirupama will run her consultation professionally, with one, three and five-hour slots, spread over a few months. She is willing to help players with limited resources as well.

"I am really keen to help juniors and kids who are not able to afford much, but have questions and want to consult. I will be more than happy to help them as much as I can. I do want to make a difference. I will offer the best from my side, and hope it all works out fine," she signed off.

THE GIST

- Nirupama has been doing commentary for the Grand Slams and the Chennai Open, helping her keep track of tennis at the top level
- Despite being busy with daughter Sahana's tennis career, she has kept an eye on Indian women's tennis and is thrilled with the progress
- With her new venture — *tennisconsultation.com* — Nirupama hopes to guide players and parents who seek expert advice

State facing a power shortfall during peak hours: Energy Dept.

Although the electricity situation in Karnataka is largely stable now, the government is in the process of procuring power to bridge the shortfall; peak demand for summer is expected to touch 18,000 MW this year

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

As Karnataka enters the summer months, there is an electricity deficit of 300 to 500 MW (75 - 125 million units (MU)) during peak hours in some blocks, according to data provided by the Energy Department.

Although the power situation in the State is largely stable now, the government is in the process of procuring electricity to bridge the deficit.

The shortfall exists in the purchased power segment, the data shows.

"As there is a rise in the temperatures, the demand has increased during the evenings and the peak hours, which is when the small shortfall is felt. However, overall, we have no shortage as of now," a senior official from the Energy Department told *The Hindu*.

This year, a peak demand of 17,220 MW was recorded in the State on March 12 and the highest energy consumption of 329.53 MU was recorded on March 22. The peak demand for summer is expected to touch 18,000 MW this year.

Energy available across sources

Sources	Energy in MU
State thermal plants	89.42
Hydro	27.54
Solar	42.83
Wind	9.09
Non-conventional energy	8.59
Central generating stations	88.40
Purchased	34.78

Figures as of March 26

Source: Energy Department

It has to be noted that the all-time high peak demand of 16,950 MW and the highest consumption of 294 MU was recorded on August 25, 2023, shortly before a power crisis began in Karnataka.

Both of these records have already been broken this year.

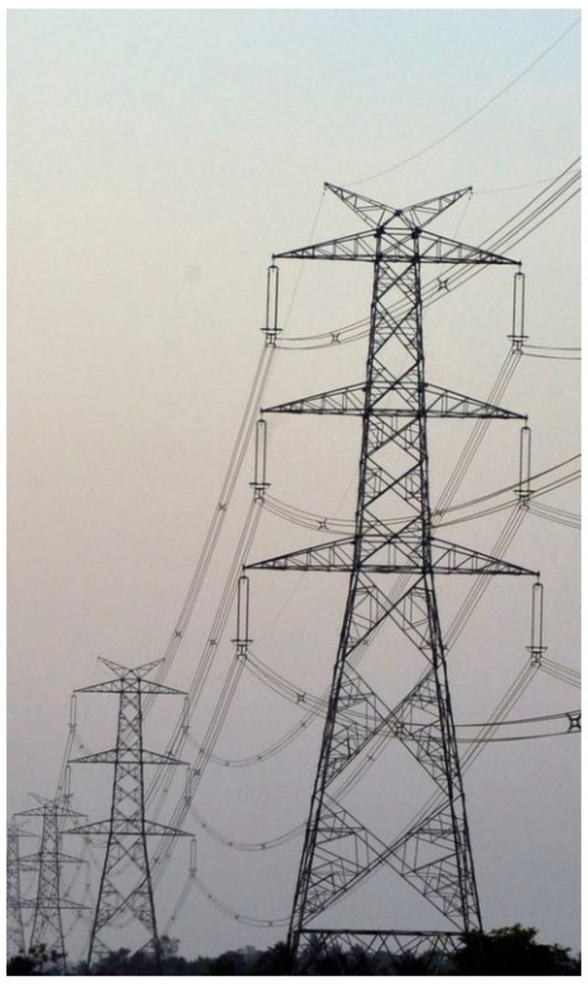
However, the officials are confident about being able to maintain uninterrupted power supply in the State.

"We have tied up with the power exchange and have already procured 500 MW for April and May as we know that the demand is going to increase. We will also utilise hydro power. The power which we have conserved so far can be used for these two months," the senior official said.

As of March 26, the quantum of energy available in the thermal plants of the State was 89.42 MU and in hydro stations 27.54 MU. There was 42.83 MU in solar energy, 9.09 MU wind energy, and over 160 MU energy from other sources.

In October 2023, as the State faced a power crisis there was a daily shortage of 40 to 50 MU.

Through a series of measures, including power purchase through exchange, power swapping with other States, and imposition of Section 11 of the Electricity Act 2003, the shortfall was overcome in a month.



This year, a peak demand of 17,220 MW was recorded in the State on March 12. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

BMRCL takes swift action to enhance safety at stations following student's death

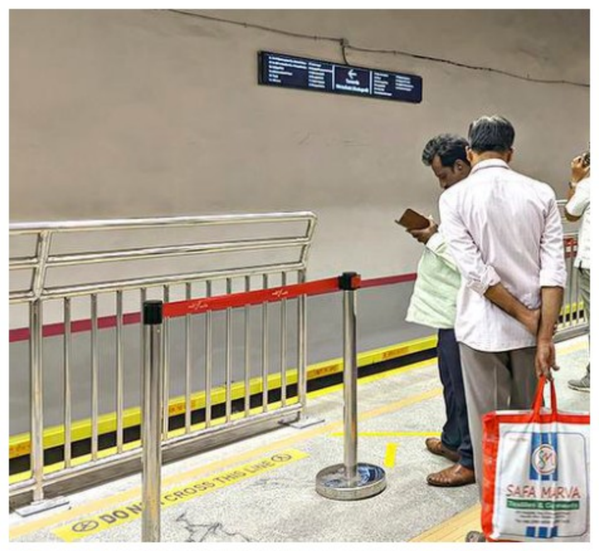
Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

In the wake of the death of a student at the Attiguppe metro station, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has swiftly implemented a series of proactive measures aimed at preventing any recurrence of such incidents within the metro premises.

BMRCL officials said that they have directed train operators to exercise increased caution when approaching the platform.

The station controller has been asked to be extra vigilant and check CCTV cameras to identify restless or gloomy persons.

"Although this is the second incident involving a person taking their life, there have been numerous cases of commuters accessing the tracks in the past. Consequently, we have taken proactive measures to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future," a BMRCL official told *The Hindu*.



Barricades were set up to restrain the movement of passengers at Majestic metro station. SREELAKSHMI PRIYADARSHINI

Security personnel

In addition to providing directives to train operators and maintaining vigilance through CCTV cameras, officials have bolstered the deployment of security personnel on platforms to deter such incidents.

On March 21, a 19-year-old young man jumped onto the tracks at Attiguppe station on the Purple Line around 2 p.m. He was hit by an oncoming metro train and was killed on the spot.

The deceased was identified as Dhruv Jatin Thakkar. He was a first-year student of the BA LLB programme at National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, and hailed from Mumbai.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Yashwant Chavan, spokesperson for BMRCL, said that proactive measures had been undertaken by BMRCL to prevent such incidents.

"Now, in response to the recent incident, we have implemented stricter measures, including augmenting deployment of security personnel. Passengers are already reminded through regular announcements and random checks by staff to stay clear of the yellow line on platforms. Signages have also been installed at metro stations, cautioning passengers to refrain from accessing the tracks, highlighting the potential for life-altering injuries due to negligence," he said.

In the aftermath of this incident, commuters are emphasising the urgent necessity for the installation of platform screen doors (PSDs) at metro stations.

However, a BMRCL official mentioned that PSDs will be integrated only into the upcoming metro stations.

Responding to a query regarding the installation of PSDs at existing metro stations, Mr. Chavan explained: "Implementing PSDs at existing metro stations would necessitate a comprehensive overhaul of the signalling system, as the current system is intricately linked to train stoppage and door opening. As an alternative, we have introduced platform safety railings at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Interchange station as part of a pilot project. Our intention is to extend this initiative to other crowded metro stations in the city".

Apart from this, an emergency stop plunger (ESP) is available on every platform, allowing anyone present to halt an approaching train by activating the emergency brakes.

Meanwhile, security personnel emphasise the necessity for additional staff to deter passengers from accessing the tracks.

"Ensuring the safety of our passengers remains our highest priority, and we are equipped to handle any emergency. However, increasing the number of security personnel on platforms is crucial to prevent incidents of passengers accessing the tracks. By enhancing our presence, will ensure the safety and well-being of everyone using the metro system."

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help)

BWSSB proposes community rainwater harvesting to fill lakes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is planning to bring a new community rainwater harvesting policy in the city to fill the lakes.

BWSSB Chairman V. Ram Prasath Manohar said under the proposed project, the board is planning to install pipes from buildings, having circumference up to 500 metres, to channel water directly to lakes.

This will help recharge the groundwater which is fast depleting in the city. In the first phase the project is proposed to be implemented in the vicinity of Varthur and Bellandur lakes.

Mr. Manohar, in a meeting, said although it is mandatory to carry out rainwater harvesting in buildings and homes having borewells, this is not being implemented effectively owing to the non availability of space. On the other hand, those who have complied with the same are leaving the water to underground drainage. This practice is also burdening the UGDs in the city.

In the first phase, the project is proposed to be implemented in the vicinity of Varthur and Bellandur lakes. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Manohar said installing pipes directly to lakes will not only fill the lakes but also reduce burden on UGDs. The pipelines will be installed at apartment buildings, public spaces, and big buildings, he said.

This proposal comes days after the BWSSB announced that it will fill 14 lakes in the city with treated water with the hope that this would improve the groundwater level in the vicinity of these lakes.

In the first phase, the BWSSB recently let treated sewage water into Kengeri lake.

Police Department has adopted e-office, says Dayananda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda on Tuesday announced that the Bengaluru City Police have gone paperless and have adopted e-office in the last five months.

Mr. Dayananda told presspersons that in the first step last October, the Commissioner's office did away with physical paperwork and switched to e-office. All police stations in the city have now adopted e-office, he said. "Law and order, crime detection, traffic and administration, all four verticals, are now using e-office," he said.

This system will speed up work, enhance efficiency and productivity of the staff, besides clearing clutter in the office, in addition to bringing transparency in the system, he said.

When the system was launched, it was introduced at the offices of DCPs and ACPs before gradually being extended to all police stations across the city. The police are now working to digitise all the old files to incorporate them into the new system.

With the e-office system in place, the once cumbersome tasks of filing reports manually, managing evidence, and coordinating with other departments have been streamlined. Patrol officers could file incident reports directly from their tabs in patrol cars, reducing paperwork and allowing them to spend more time on the streets, a senior official said.

Ticket row: Conductor held for assaulting female passenger

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Siddapura police arrested a 35-year-old Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) conductor on the charge of assaulting a 24-year-old private firm employee over a ticket row on Tuesday.

The accused was identified as Honnappa Nagappa Agasar.

According to the police, the victim is from a neighbouring State and works at a retail chain store on Commercial Street.

She had an argument with Nagappa who asked her to show her Aadhaar card to issue a free ticket under the Shakti scheme.

Even after two stops the woman did not show the card. A heated argument ensued, following which the woman allegedly slapped the conductor. Nagappa allegedly assaulted her following which she filed a complaint with the police.

Based on the complaint, the police arrested Nagappa charging him under Section 354 (assaults or uses criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage her modesty) 323 (assault) 506 (Criminal intimidation) and 509 (insult the modesty of any woman, utters any word, makes any sound or gesture, or exhibits any object) of IPC. He was released on station bail.

Meanwhile, the BMTC has suspended the conductor and said that it is giving high priority to the safety of women passengers.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)

**Public Notice on user free (Toll) rates at Nalluru Devanahalli Toll Plaza
Toll Plaza Fee applicable from 01.04.2024**

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to approval of user fee rate vide letter dated 21.03.2024 of NHAI, the User fee (Toll) rates at Nalluru Devanahalli Toll Plaza applicable from 01.04.2024 for use of Four Laning from km 42.000 to km 79.600 of Dodaballapura Bypass to Hoskote section of NH-648 (Old NH-207) in the State of Karnataka (Package-II). Below mentioned rates are effective from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025.

1. At Kms 64.690, near Nallur Village, Bengaluru Rural District, of NH 648 in the State of Karnataka having tolling road length of 39.6km.

Amount in Rs.

Category	Fees for Single Journey	Fee for return Journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	Fee for commercial vehicles registered within the district of plaza
Car/Jeep/ Van/LMV	80	120	2720	40
LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	130	200	4395	65
Truck/ Bus (2 Axle)	275	415	9205	140
3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	300	450	10040	150
Heavy Construction Machinery/ Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	435	650	14435	215
Oversized vehicle (7 or more axle)	525	790	17575	265

2. The following concessions are available at above Toll Plaza:
   a. Return journey within 24 hours from time to time of payment of all categories of vehicle (Discount 25%)
   b. 50 Single journey in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles (Discount 33%)
   c. Pass at Rs.340 for calendar month for non-commercial vehicle residing within 20Km from toll plaza (Discount 50%)
   d. Commercial vehicle (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the district of toll plaza (Discount 50%)
3. The list of exempted vehicles is a given in the amendment to Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSI 950(E)
4. The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay 10 times the applicable fee rate and remove the excess load to make use of highway.
5. For viewing of toll fee notification S.O.4823 (E) dated 02.11.2023 published in Gazette of India extraordinary, Please visit website **https://tis.nhai.gov.in** or enter the URL **https://egazette.gov.in/**(S(c0sqd3m0gmyqnmx4srqxmyyq))/ViewPDF.aspx or scan the QR code.
6. For any complaints contact: Call 1033 and for enquiry please contact Project Director, Bengaluru-Tumkuru Road, Beside Nagasandra Metro Station, Bengaluru-560073 Ph no. 080-28394403/080-28394383.

Scan for notification

BUILDING A NATION NOT JUST ROADS

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of the General Public, that **Mr.BASAM NARENDRANATH** aged about 53 years s/o. Lakshmi Reddy.B and **Smt. SREELATHA CHEEMALAPATI** aged about 50 years w/o. Basam Narendranath are the full and absolute owners of the Property bearing Southern Portion of New site No.15, Old No.1/3, in the layout known as **"PAPAIAH LAYOUT"** of Bangalore South Taluk, which is morefully described in the schedule below, having purchased from previous owner/ M.S. PREMALATHA under Sale Deed dated 13/10/2010 registered as Document No. BTM-1-00967/2010-11 of Book I stored in C.D.No. BTMD13 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, BTM.Layout Bangalore.

It is further notified to the General Public that the earlier sale deed/s with respect to schedule property i.e.,

(i) Gift Deed dated 20/03/2002 executed by Obaidur Rahman in favour of Asadur Rahaman., registered as Document No. 4976/2001-02 of Book I stored in C.D. No. 11 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar Bangalore.

(ii) Sale Deed dated 06/12/2006 executed by Asadur Rahaman in favour of Sheela Antony., registered as Document No. JAY-1-03966/2006-07 of Book I stored in C.D. No.JAYD81 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar Bangalore.

(iii) Sale Deed dated 29/10/2007 executed by Sheela Antony in favour of M.S.Premalatha., registered as Document No. JAY-1-02581/2007-08 of Book I stored in C.D. No. JAYD98 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar Bangalore. were lost. A Police complaint in this regard was lodged with Jurisdictional Police vide Reference No. 0977591/2024 dated 16/03/2024. It is hereby requested that if any person/s comes across or finds the same, he/she/they are requested to hand over the same to the below mentioned address and they will be compensated accordingly.

The General Public is hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the Schedule Property with any person/s based on the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, it is at their own risk and cost and such person/s will not derive any title over the Schedule Property and in such an event they have no claim of whatsoever nature against Basam Narendranath & Sreelatha Cheemalapati nor the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Property bearing Southern Portion of the residential house Property bearing Corporation New No.15, Old No.1/3, in the layout known as **"PAPAIAH LAYOUT"** KEB Road, 13th Cross, Old Madiwala, Bangalore, BBMP New Ward No.172 Madiwala and Old Ward No.65, BTM Layout & Property PID No.65-202-15 with measuring East to West 48 feet, North to South 15 feet in all measuring 720 square feet along with a house built over it comprising of Ground Floor construction area of 4 squares an on the First Floor construction area of 6 squares, in all 10 squares of built-up area, with mosaic flooring and doors and windows made of hone wood, together with all rights appurtenances whatsoever underneath or above surface & bounded on:-

East by : Property No.9 belonged to Rama Murthy: West by : Road; North by : Remaining portion of Property No.15 sold in favour of V.Armugam, South by: Property No.16 belonged to Anjanappa:

M/s. GANJAM NAGARAJ ASSOCIATES,
Advocates
Office at No. 312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross, 6th Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 082.
Dated : 26/03/2024 Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri. B. S. Madhu Sudhan Singh, S/o. Sri. R. Shivarama Singh is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owner Sri. A. Prabhakar S/o. Sri. M. Appanna Residing at #25, Ranoji Rao Lane, Kalasipalyam, Bangalore- 560 002.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Approved residential Plot bearing No. 503, Property PID No. 150200100401800731, Village Panchyathi khatha No. 122/503 measuring 1200 Sq. Ft. in the layout "NISARGA LAYOUT", formed as per approval No. BMRDA/LAO/04/2004-05 dated 30-06-2004, in converted land bearing Sy. No. 24, situated at Harapanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, and bounded on the : East by : Plot No. 504, West by : Road, North by : Plot No. 511, South by : Road.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore- 68, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 26-03-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Sri. Lekkala Ramireddy, S/o. Sri. China Subbarao, & Sri. Lekkala Venkata Reddy, S/o. Sri. Peda Obula Reddy have to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owner Sri. N. Datta S/o. Sri. Narayana Swamy Residing at # 351,11th Cross, 1st Main Road, Muneshwara Badavane, Laggere, Bangalore- 560 058.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my clients will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residential Plot bearing No. 124A, measuring East to West 37 Feet and North to South 100 Ft total measuring 3700 Sq. Feet in converted land bearing Sy. No. 513, situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, and bounded on the : East by : Plot No. 125, West by : Plot No. 124, North by : Road, South by : Private Property.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore- 68, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 26-03-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Sri. Lekkala Ramireddy, S/o. Sri. China Subbarao, & Sri. Lekkala Venkata Reddy, S/o. Sri. Peda Obula Reddy have intend to develop schedule property under a joint development entered into to with its owner Smt. Sirisha. E W/o. Sri. Goutham. Y Residing at # 1127/2 (old No. 149), 26th Cross, Fort Street, Behind Ravi theater, Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore- 562125.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my clients will proceed under a Joint Development Agreement and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Plot bearing No. 123, Khatha No. 1189/123, Property PID No. 150200102300102698, Khaneshumari No. 1541/1189/123 measuring East to west 55.1 Ft and North to South 98 Ft totally measuring 501.68 Sq. Mtr or 5400 Sq. Feet in converted land bearing Sy. No. 513, situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, and bounded on the : East by : Plot No. 124, West by : Plot No. 122, North by : Road, South by : Private Property.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore- 68, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 26-03-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Sri. Lekkala Ramireddy, S/o. Sri. China Subbarao, & Sri. Lekkala Venkata Reddy, S/o. Sri. Peda Obula Reddy have to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owner Sri. Vivek Bhatia, S/o. Sri. Gopal Bhatia, Residing at # C/o. Mr. Mahesh M. Shah No. 25, Sampath Rao Colony, Baroda- 390 005.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my clients will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

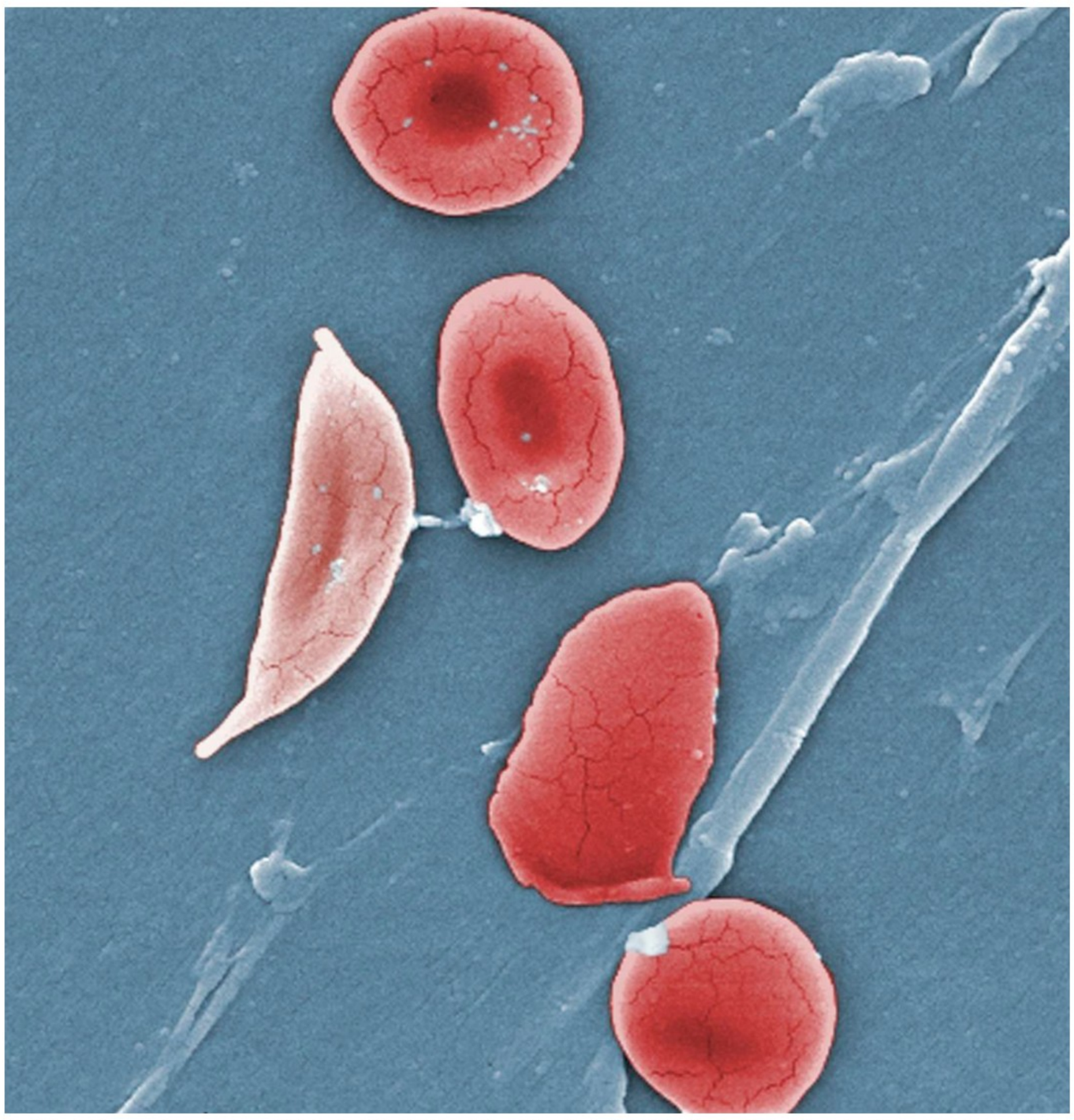
All that piece and parcel of residential Plot bearing No. 124, Khaneshumari No. 1543/1190/124 measuring East to West 61 Ft & North to South 98' total measuring 5978 Sq. Feet in converted land bearing Sy. No. 513, situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, and bounded on the : East by:Plot No. 125, West by : Plot No.123, North by : Road, South by : Private Property.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore- 68, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 26-03-2024

Inaccessibility and cost cripple efforts to treat sickle cell disease

People from marginalised tribal communities, face a battle even to access basic healthcare and diagnostics. They also face an under-resourced health system, inadequate information, and high expenditure. Treatments like CRISP cost $2-3 million and bone marrow donors are difficult to find

Sarojini Nadimpally
Gargi Mishra
Keertana K. Tella



A colorised microscope image made available by the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia via the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a sickle cell, left, and normal red blood cells of a patient with sickle cell anaemia, 2009. JANICE HANEY CARR/AP

When five-year-old Suraj was debilitated with a persistent fever, his family took him to the district hospital in Nuapada in western Odisha. The hospital directed them to the Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research at Burla in Sambalpur, around 250km from their village. At the Institute, Suraj underwent a diagnostic test called haemoglobin electrophoresis to detect whether he had sickle cell disease (SCD). When the tests confirmed SCD, the Institute registered him as a patient and referred him to Nuapada district hospital for blood transfusions.

Suraj's story came up during our work with the National Human Rights Commission in 2019. It provides a glimpse of the difficulties that people like Suraj, from marginalised tribal communities, face even to access basic healthcare and diagnostics.

It is, however, the beginning of an arduous battle with an under-resourced health system, inadequate information, and high expenditure.

In light of these realities, and the global discussion on advances in human genome editing, the question that becomes especially pertinent is whether these conversations allow for and are cognisant of such experiences.

SCD is an inherited haemoglobin disorder in which red blood cells (RBCs) become crescent or sickle-shaped due to a genetic mutation. These RBCs are rigid and impair circulation, often leading to anaemia, organ damage, severe and episodic pain, and premature death. India has the third highest number of SCD births, after Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Regional studies suggest approximately 15,000-25,000 babies with SCD are born in India every year, mostly in tribal communities.

According to the 2023 'Guidelines for National Programme for Prevention and Management of Sickle Cell Disease', of the 1.13 crore persons screened in different states, about 8.75% (9.96 lakh) tested positive. It is also one of the 21 "specified" disabilities listed in the Schedule of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.

Access to treatment a major issue

In 2023, the Government of India launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission, to eliminate SCD by 2047. At present, however, treatment and care for SCD remains grossly inadequate and inaccessible. States with a high prevalence of SCD, particularly among their most marginalised populations, are falling behind in their efforts to reach out and provide basic care to those affected.

An apposite example is the (un)availability of the drug hydroxyurea. It lessens the severity of pain, reduces hospitalisations, and improves survival rates by increasing the size and flexibility of RBCs and lowering their likelihood of becoming sickle-shaped. Yet States are largely unable to provide hydroxyurea for SCD patients, pointing to their inability to purchase, stock, and distribute this drug. Even though the National Health Mission's Essential Medicines List requires the drug to be availed at the primary healthcare level, hydroxyurea is currently only available in certain tertiary-level facilities, such as medical colleges.

Blood transfusion is another important therapy for SCD, but its availability is limited to district-level facilities. Most block-level community health centres don't offer them. Even during an emergency, families of SCD patients have to arrange for blood replacement units and pay for expensive private transport. Pain medications, from painkillers to non-steroidal anti-inflammatories and opioids, are also scarce.

Bone marrow transplantation (BMT), until recently the other cure for SCD, is out of reach for most SCD patients due to the difficulty in finding matched donors, the high cost of the treatment at private facilities, and long waiting times in public hospitals. There have been efforts in some states to improve public health facilities but it remains to be seen how successful they are at making care universally available.

Access to and equity of CRISPR

In light of this, the application of the gene-editing technology called CRISPR (short for 'Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats') to treat SCD is important – for its novelty and promise but also for the health disparities it makes apparent.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved two gene therapies, Casgevy and Lyfgenia, to treat SCD in people ages 12 and older. Casgevy, developed by Vertex Pharmaceuticals and CRISPR Therapeutics and also approved in the U.K., is the first CRISPR-based therapy to have received regulatory approval in the U.S. Lyfgenia, manufactured by Bluebird Bio, doesn't use CRISPR but depends on a viral vector to change blood stem-cells.

Both treatments entail collecting a patient's blood stem-cells, modifying them, and administering high-dose chemotherapy to destroy the damaged cells in the bone marrow. The modified cells are then infused into the patient through a hematopoietic stem cell transplant. The treatments are expected to take up to a year and require several hospital visits. Victoria Gray, a patient in her mid-30s from the U.S., was the first recipient of Casgevy in clinical trials. Having been free of SCD symptoms and pain for a few years, she is now seen as a symbol of hope for new therapies.

CRISPR's inventors have won a Nobel Prize and it is celebrated as a revolutionary innovation, but its treatment cost of $2-3 million keeps it out of reach of most of those affected in countries where SCD is endemic. While researchers and policymakers are considering potential alternatives to improve access in low- and middle-income countries, such high-tech therapies require advanced care in well-resourced hospitals, too, bringing with it challenges of availability, affordability, and quality – which disproportionately affect the poor and marginalised. It raises pressing questions about equity, access, and justice in the use of gene therapies.

CRISPR in India

In India, CRISPR's possible medical applications also pose ethical and legal quandaries. The National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research 2017 prohibit the commercialisation of stem cell therapies and allow the use of stem cells only for clinical trials, except for BMT for SCD. Gene-editing stem cells is allowed only for in-vitro studies. The Guidelines also encourage (but don't mandate) the sharing of financial benefits resulting from the commercialisation of stem cell products with the donor or community.

Further, the National Guidelines for Gene Therapy Product Development and Clinical Trials 2019 provide guidelines for the development and clinical trials of gene therapies for inherited genetic disorders. India has approved a five-year project to develop CRISPR for sickle cell anaemia. Under its Sickle Cell Anaemia Mission, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is developing gene-editing therapies for SCD. Around ₹34 crore has been allocated for this mission over 2020-2023. It is reportedly in the pre-clinical stage, with clinical trials awaited.

> Sickle cell disease is an inherited haemoglobin disorder in which red blood cells become crescent or sickle-shaped. These RBCs are rigid and impair circulation, often leading to anaemia, organ damage, severe and episodic pain, and premature death

However, the Guidelines need a stronger health inequity and discrimination perspective, addressing issues such as equitable opportunities for underserved populations to safely participate in clinical trials, and whether and how this therapy will be made available to those populations in future.

Adopting and promoting advanced therapies like CRISPR in India require a comprehensive approach that accounts for inequities and disparities in the country's overall healthcare access framework. While such advances in curative treatments are encouraging, our concerns are primarily focused on the importance of equity and access throughout the lifecycle of research, development, and implementation of gene therapies.

The development of therapeutic technologies occurs at a pace and level that renders it unavailable to the same constituencies most affected by the disease. The wait for the products of gene-editing to trickle down to the margins is long and often in vain. We suggest investment in expensive therapeutic technologies need to be preceded by focused efforts to first make basic treatment available – such as an uninterrupted supply of hydroxyurea – to those direly in need of treatment.

Deliberations on regulatory frameworks also need to be expanded from closed scientific circles to the larger public. Policies on the development of such technologies need to receive inputs from civil society and patients' advocacy groups to be able to develop frameworks for ethically responsible research. The need of the hour is an approach that focuses on integrating these multiple issues of access to diagnostics, drugs, health information and community support. It is only then that children like Suraj will be able to live a healthy life in the long term.

(Sarojini Nadimpally, Gargi Mishra, and Keertana K. Tella work on public health, bio and reproductive technologies, human rights and gender.)

The Sickle Cell Team from JSS College in Mysuru performing a skit on sickle cell awareness at Chamarajanagar. FILE PHOTO

Researchers will be able to make a drug that can be administered by injection in a doctor's office instead of through long and painful chemotherapy treatments. REUTERS

NASA touts research in 'space labs' to fight cancer

Agence France-Presse

Experiments in the weightless environment of space have led to "crazy progress" in the fight against cancer, NASA officials said at a recent event highlighting an important and personal initiative of U.S. President Joe Biden.

Frank Rubio, an astronaut, physician, and former military helicopter pilot, conducted cancer research during his recent mission to the International Space Station (ISS), orbiting some 400km above the earth's surface.

Cells there age more rapidly, speeding up research, and their structures are also described as "purer".

"They all don't clump together (as they do) on the earth because of gravity," NASA chief Bill Nelson told AFP in an interview. "They are suspended in space," enabling better analysis of their molecular structure.

Research conducted in space can help make cancer drugs more effective, Mr. Nelson added.

Pharmaceutical giant Merck has conducted research on the ISS with Keytruda, an anti-cancer drug that patients now receive intravenously. Its key ingredient is difficult to transform into a liquid. One solution is crystallisation, a process often used in drug manufacturing.

In 2017, Merck conducted experiments to see if the crystals would form more rapidly in space than on the earth.

'Cells don't clump together, they are suspended in space,' enabling better analysis of their molecular structure

Mr. Nelson used two pictures to demonstrate the difference. The first showed a blurry, transparent spot. But on the second, a large number of clear grey spots had emerged.

That photo showed that smaller, more uniform crystals were forming in space – and "forming better," Mr. Nelson said.

Thanks to such research, researchers will be able to make a drug that can be administered by injection in a doctor's office instead of through long and painful chemotherapy treatments, he added.

Merck identified techniques that can help it imitate the effects of these crystals on the earth as it works to develop a drug that can be stored at room temperature.

Still, it can take years between research in space and the wide availability of a drug developed there.

Cancer research in space began more than 40 years ago but has become "revolutionary" in recent years, said Mr. Nelson, a former Democratic senator who travelled into space himself in 1986.

"We use the languages of space to tell the limits of cancer," added W. Kimryn Rathmell, director of the National Cancer Institute, a federally funded research body.

Mr. Biden launched a "Cancer Moonshot" initiative in 2016, when he was then vice president, echoing a speech by John F. Kennedy some 60 years earlier outlining the bold goal of sending an American to the moon.

The goal of the "Moonshot" is to halve the death rate from cancer over the next quarter century, saving four million lives, according to the White House.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

‘Poll code can’t stall appointments to real estate appellate tribunal’

The High Court said that making the tribunal functional by appointing the chairperson and the member is imperative to reduce the number of increasing cases before it

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that the model code of conduct for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections cannot stall the process of appointing the chairperson and member of the Karnataka Real Estate Appellate Tribunal (KREAT) based on the earlier directions issued by the court in this regard.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while hearing a petition filed by Bengaluru-based Mathew Thomas, who brought to the court the non-functioning of the appellate tribunal due to vacant posts.

The court passed the order after the State Advocate General pointed out that the announcement of elections and model code of conduct has become an impediment to executing the earlier orders of the court for initiating the process to make appointments to vacant posts in the tribunal and the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (KRERA).

Earlier direction

Pointing out that the court, since January 2024, has been issuing directions to the State to initiate the process to make appointments to these posts without brooking any delay, the court said that directions issued by it since January 22, 2024, “cannot be stalled on the ground that the elections are now declared.”

The High Court said that making the tribunal functional by appointing the chairperson and the member is imperative to reduce the number of increasing cases before the High Court as the litigants, who were supposed to knock on the doors of the tribunal on the orders of the KRERA, are at present directly approaching the court due to non-functional tribunal.

Raid on spa: Prevention of atrocities Act invoked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police have invoked the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 against the accused who were running a flesh trade at an illegal spa which was raided and shut down by the police recently.

The victims in two of the recent cases belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They were lured into the racket with a promise of good jobs, then cheated and forced into flesh trade.

“Hence, we have invoked the SC-ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, apart from other laws meant to tackle human trafficking,” said City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda.

The city police have cracked the whip on illegal spas that had mushroomed across the city and employed women therapists from different parts of the country and also women from neighboring countries often forcing them into flesh trade.

The police conducted a series of raids since January, booked 21 cases, and rescued 118 women. Apart from this, 39 people have been booked.

Among these 21 cases, Whitefield Division has reported the highest number of cases, five, in which 22 women were rescued and 11 persons arrested. The Whitefield Division had most number of illegal spas under the radar of CCB.

Water adalat tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will hold a water adalat on Thursday between 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to address the grievances related to water billing, delays in providing water supply and sanitary connections, delays in converting from domestic connection to non-domestic connection and other related issues.

According to a BWSSB release, the adalat will be held at the following sub divisions: South East 3: Central Jail Road, Koodlu GLR premises; South East 6, 9th Main, BTM 2nd Stage; West 1-3: Dr. M.C. Modi Road, Rajajinagar. North West 5: 1st Floor, 7th Main, MEI Layout, Hesarghatta Road. North 2-3: 1st Floor, Pinakini Bhavan, Doddaballapur Road, Yelahanka. South 1-3: 21st Main Road, 11th Block, Anjanapura; South West 3: 3, MNK Park, Basavanagudi, South West 6: 4th Block, Banashankari 6th Stage, Pavanapura, opposite Raghavendra Swamy Temple, Ligadheeranahalli, and East 2-4: 1st B Cross, East NGEF Layout, Kasturinagar.

CCB arrests man from Ghaziabad on charge of running insurance racket

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The cybercrime wing of the Central crime branch arrested a 40-year-old B.Sc. graduate from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly running an insurance racket for the past three years and cheating as many as 34 people of ₹4.5 crore. The accused Manveer Singh alias Manoj Singh worked in Noida at a private firm for a few months before picking up cyber fraud skills and started to make random calls to people claiming to be an insurance agent for a reputed company offering lucrative insurance policies with high returns in a short period of time. The accused had even floated a fake website and advertisement page on social media claiming to be an insurance agent for private banks and firms.

Many people, including a senior citizen, fell into his trap and issued a cheque of ₹15 lakh to get a premium bond with high monthly returns. The racket came to light when a senior citizen on suspicion cross-checked with the bank after failing to get his monthly interest. The victim then approached the police. A team of police led by DCP, crime, Abdul Ahad, tracked down the accused to Ghaziabad where he was arrested.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 27	
RISE 06:19	SET 18:31
RISE 20:11	SET 07:26
THURSDAY, MAR. 28	
RISE 06:18	SET 18:31
RISE 21:01	SET 08:02
FRIDAY, MAR. 29	
RISE 06:18	SET 18:31
RISE 21:53	SET 08:43

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	24
Mysuru	35	21
Bengaluru	35	21

Bengaluru Today
35°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and uneasy. Night will be pleasant.

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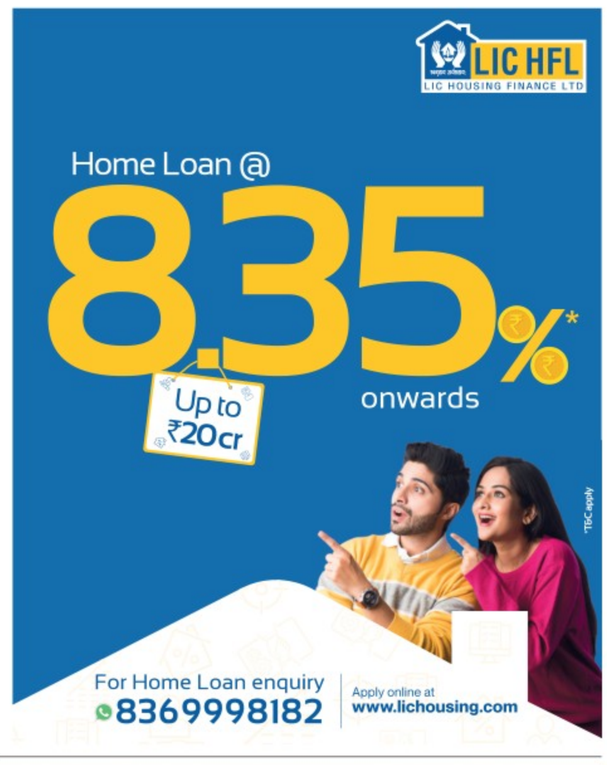


CCB unearths e-bank guarantee racket, arrests CA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Central Crime Branch officials unearthed an e-bank guarantee racket and arrested a 45-year-old chartered accountant (CA) who was operating from Kuwait and duped many beneficiaries to the tune of ₹168 crore to secure loans and other benefits from banks.

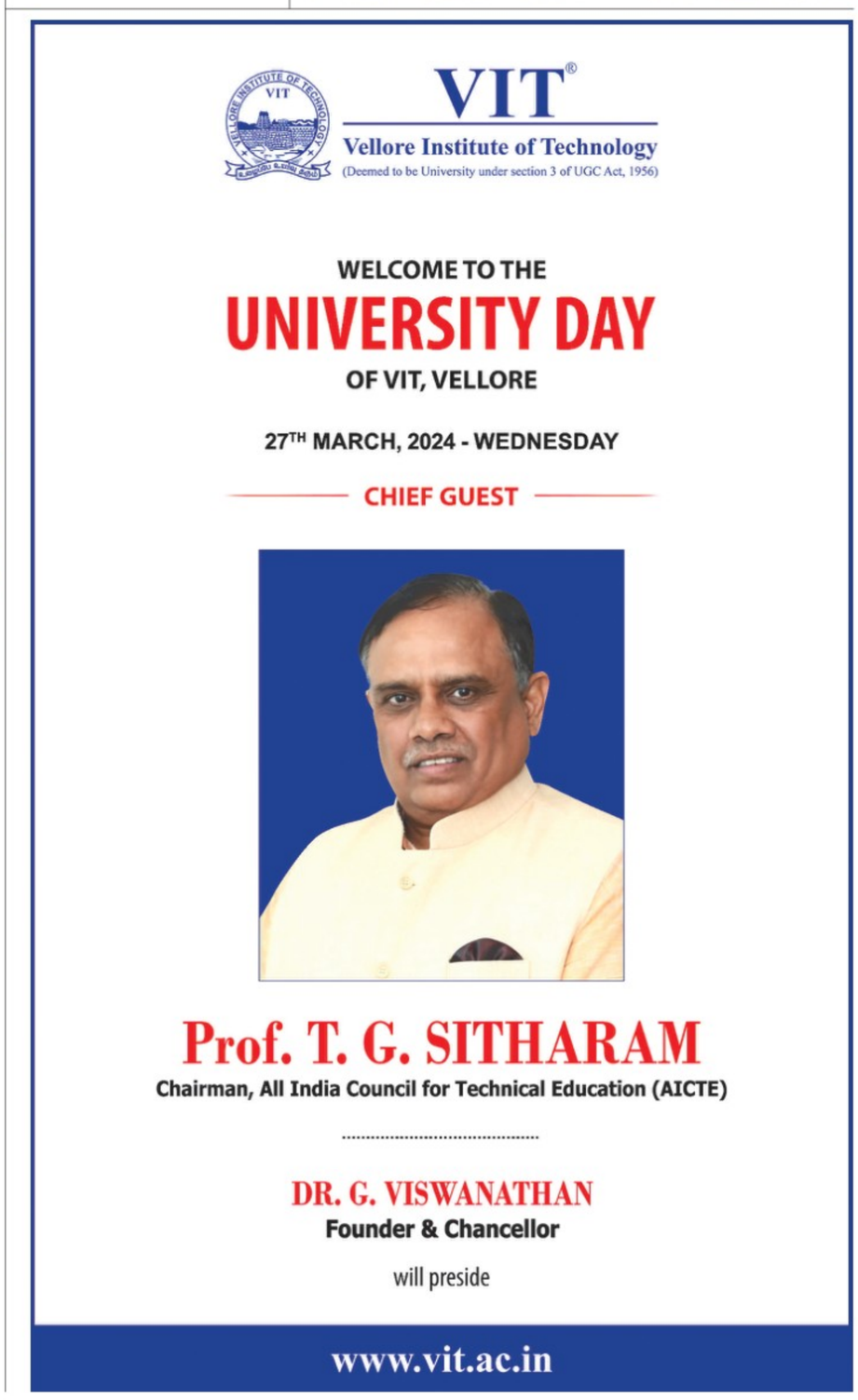
The fraud came to light when the National e-Governance Services Ltd. while verifying e-bank guarantees detected 11 applicants who had submitted fake e-guarantees, and filed a complaint with the Shivajinagar police.

Considering the ramifications, the CCB cybercrime team took over the case and tracked down the kingpin, Ashish Roy, a CA from Uttar Pradesh, operating from Kuwait.

Ashish used to source the details of victims through his professional network, approach them on the pretext of helping them to get e-bank guarantees and uploaded the same to private banks to facilitate financial transactions and other benefits without much scrutiny.

The accused had taken ₹5 crore commission for the service which according to an estimation resulted in a financial loss to banks to the tune of ₹168 crore, a senior police officer said.

The accused has now been taken into custody for a detailed interrogation to ascertain his network.



THE HINDU
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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The stake Adani aquired in Odisha's Gopalpur port

95 in percentage. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd announced the acquisition of Gopalpur Ports from the Shapoorji Pallonji Group and Orissa Stevedores Ltd at an equity value of ₹1,349 crore. PTI

The funds unutilised by Central Pollution Control Board

80 In percentage. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has spent only 20% of the environment protection charge and environmental compensation collected so far for mitigating air pollution in Delhi. PTI

India's current account deficit in October to December quarter

10.5 In $ billion. India's current account deficit declined to 1.2% of the GDP in the October-December quarter from $11.4 billion in the previous three months and $16.8 billion a year back. PTI

GST demand notice sent to Life Insurance Corporation of India

39.39 in ₹ lakh. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) said tax authorities have slapped a demand notice on it for the short payment of GST for 2017-18. PTI

The jump in shares of Trump's social media company

50 In percentage. Truth Social's shares jumped on the Nasdaq, boosting the value of Trump's large holdings in the company as well as the smaller stakes of fans. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

The need to curb black carbon emissions

What is black carbon and why is it harmful for the environment? Which sector in India is the biggest contributor of black carbon? How has the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana helped in reducing the use of traditional cooking fuels?

EXPLAINER

Chandrakiran Lakshmisha
Kaushik Reddy

The story so far:

At the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow in November 2021, India pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, positioning itself as a frontrunner in the race to carbon neutrality. According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India had installed a renewable energy capacity of over 180 GW by 2023 and is expected to meet its target of 500 GW by 2030. While carbon dioxide mitigation strategies will yield benefits in the long term, they need to go hand-in-hand with efforts that provide short-term relief.

Why is black carbon relevant?

Black carbon is the dark, sooty material emitted alongside other pollutants when biomass and fossil fuels are not fully combusted. It contributes to global warming and poses severe risks. Studies have found a direct link between exposure to black carbon and a higher risk of heart disease, birth complications, and premature death. Most black carbon emissions in India arise from burning biomass, such as cow dung or straw, in traditional cookstoves.

According to a 2016 study, the residential sector contributes 47% of India's total black carbon emissions. Industries contribute a further 22%, diesel vehicles 17%, open burning 12%, and other sources 2%. Decarbonisation efforts in the industry and transport sectors in the past decade have yielded reductions in black carbon emissions, but the residential sector remains a challenge.

Has PMUY helped?

In May 2016, the Government of India said the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) would provide free liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) connections to households below the poverty line. The primary objective was to make clean cooking fuel available to rural and poor households and reduce their dependence on traditional cooking fuels. The PMUY has established infrastructure to go with LPG connections, including free gas stoves, deposits for LPG cylinders, and a distribution network. The programme has thus, been able to play a vital role in reducing black carbon emissions, as it offers a cleaner alternative to traditional fuel consumption. The programme has provided connections to over 10 crore households as of January 2024.

Clean cooking: Women make tea on an earthen stove in Hisar District, Haryana. FILE PHOTO

However, in 2022-2023, 25% of all PMUY beneficiaries – 2.69 crore people – availed either zero LPG refill or only one LPG refill, according to RTI data, meaning they still relied entirely on traditional biomass for cooking. *The Hindu* found in August 2023 that the average PMUY beneficiary household consumes only 3.5-4 LPG cylinders per year instead of the six or seven a regular non-PMUY household uses. This means up to half of all the energy needs of a PMUY beneficiary household are still met by traditional fuels, which have high black carbon emissions. A shortage of LPG and higher usage of traditional fuels also affect women and children disproportionately. They are more prone to higher levels of indoor air pollution, causing many health issues and leading to premature deaths.

What is the government's role?

The key to enhancing the quality of life in these areas lies primarily in securing access to clean cooking fuels. While the future holds the promise of meeting energy needs in rural areas through renewable sources, the immediate benefits for rural communities are poised to come from using LPG.

In October 2023, the government increased the LPG subsidy to ₹300 from ₹200. But with rapid increase in LPG prices over the last five years, the cost of a 14.2-kg LPG cylinder, even with an additional subsidy, is still about ₹600 per cylinder. Most PMUY beneficiaries find the price too high, more so since cow dung, firewood, etc. are 'free' alternatives. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a further price reduction of ₹100 in March 2024, but this subsidy is expected to be temporary. The government has estimated that about ₹12,000 crore will be spent on PMUY subsidies in 2024-2025, a figure that has continuously increased each year since the scheme's inception. While it is the rightful duty of the government to make clean fuel affordable through subsidies, the problem of low refill rates will persist if availability issues are not addressed.

Another big hurdle to the PMUY's success is the lack of last-mile connectivity in the LPG distribution network, resulting in remote rural areas depending mostly on biomass. One potential solution to this issue is the local production of coal-bed methane (CBM) gas by composting biomass. CBM is a much cleaner fuel with lower black-carbon emissions and investment. Panchayats can take the initiative to produce CBM gas locally at the village level, ensuring every rural household can access clean cooking fuel.

What about the global stage?

As India navigates its responsibilities on the global stage towards long-term decarbonisation, there is an urgent need to act. Prioritising black carbon reduction through initiatives such as the PMUY scheme can help India become a global leader in addressing regional health concerns and help meet its Sustainability Development Goal of providing affordable clean energy to everyone and contributing to global climate mitigation.

Recent estimates have indicated that mitigating residential emissions will avoid more than 6.1 lakh deaths per year from indoor exposure to air pollution.

The authors work at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP).

THE GIST

- Black carbon is the dark, sooty material emitted alongside other pollutants when biomass and fossil fuels are not fully combusted. It contributes to global warming and poses severe risks.
- Most black carbon emissions in India arise from burning biomass, such as cow dung or straw, in traditional cookstoves. According to a 2016 study, the residential sector contributes 47% of India's total black carbon emissions.
- The key to enhancing the quality of life in these areas lies primarily in securing access to clean cooking fuels.

Can AI help in navigating mental health?

How can natural language processing programmes offer personalised and immediate care? How can bias be mitigated in these chatbots? Do they help clinicians as well?

PULSE-CHECK

Iti Bhargava
Manmath Goel
Namrata Rao

The story so far:

We live in a world where therapy is a text away. Natural language processing (NLP), a branch of Artificial Intelligence (AI), enables computers to understand and interpret human language that mirrors human comprehension. In mental healthcare, we are already seeing a rapid evolution of use cases for AI with affordable access to therapy and better support for clinicians.

How does it help patients?

External and internalised stigma persists across demographics and countries. Through text-based platforms and virtual mental health assistants, NLP programs provide privacy and anonymity that can improve help-seeking behaviour. For users, the chatbot can support them in reframing thoughts, validating emotions and providing personalised care, especially in the absence of human support. Not only is this beneficial when a therapist is not accessible, but it also helps improve patient health outcomes just as well as in-person care. Mental health treatment requires continuity of care to take a more holistic approach and reduce instances of relapse. For example, digital therapy assistants can help point you to resources for healthier coping in instances of distress, grief, and anxiety. Since these chatbots are scalable, cost-effective, and available 24x7, they could therefore be integrated into existing health programs. Additionally, companies building chatbots must proactively expand the scope of service delivery through partnerships and collaborations for follow-up services such as referrals, in-person treatment, or hospital care, where needed.

How does it help clinicians?

Mental health illnesses have complex causes of origin, making it difficult to design a straightforward protocol or make a quick and accurate diagnosis. By using vast datasets, AI tools can help summarise information including clinical notes, patient conversations, neuroimages, and genetic information. This can help clinicians get up to speed with the entire patient history, saving valuable time during sessions.

Recent advancements in NLP programs have demonstrated the ability to forecast responses to antidepressants and antipsychotic drugs by analysing brain electrical activity, neuroimages, and clinical surveys. Such predictive capability can streamline treatment decisions and minimise the risk of ineffective interventions. Some chatbots are also creating e-triaging systems that can significantly reduce wait time and free up valuable clinical person-hours. With improving bandwidth, mental health providers can devote a higher proportion of time to severe mental illnesses, such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, where specialised care is required.

What's next?

There is immense potential and promise in these applications and we expect to see a growing adoption. Going forward, companies must refine these applications by using more diverse population-wide datasets to minimise bias. These programs can also incorporate a wider set of health indicators for a comprehensive patient care experience. We expect greater success of these programs if they are guided by a conceptual framework for improving health outcomes and rigorously and continuously tested.

In the pursuit of innovation, governments and institutions need to prioritise user safety and well-being by ensuring adherence to global compliance standards. As these applications evolve, we must persist in updating our beliefs, governing laws and regulations, and demanding better standards of care.

Iti Bhargava and Namrata Rao are researchers in mental health in India, and Manmath Goel is a healthcare investor.

THE GIST

- Natural language processing (NLP), a branch of Artificial Intelligence (AI), enables computers to understand and interpret human language that mirrors human comprehension.
- By using vast datasets, AI tools can help summarise information including clinical notes, patient conversations, neuroimages, and genetic information.
- There is immense potential and promise in these applications and we expect to see a growing adoption.

LS polls: JD(S) core committee clears Kumaraswamy's name for Mandya

It also cleared the candidature of Prajwal Revanna for Hassan seat, while the candidate for Kolar is likely to be Mallesh Babu

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Putting an end to weeks of speculation, the Core Committee of Janata Dal (Secular) on Tuesday cleared the names of it's State president and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy as the candidate for the Mandya Lok Sabha constituency in the Vokkaliga heartland where a high voltage poll battle is expected. While it also cleared the candidature of Prajwal Revanna for Hassan seat, the candidate for Kolar seat has been kept pending, party sources said.

Janata Dal (Secular) State president and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy addressing the party core committee meeting at his residence in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Three former CMs in the running

With the party's decision, the State will see the contest of three former Chief Ministers in this election with the other two being BJP's Basavaraj Bommai from Haveri and Jagadish Shettar from Belagavi.

A formal announcement of the candidates will be made on Wednesday once the party supremo and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda returns to Bengaluru, party sources said. In the seat sharing arrangement with the NDA ally BJP, JD(S) will contest in three seats and BJP will contest in 25 seats.

Meanwhile, confusion still remains over the Kolar seat as Mr. Gowda named Mallesh Babu as the party candidate during his interaction with reporters in Hassan while party sources in Bengaluru said that "under changed circumstances", the party is still evaluating the prospects of Mr. Babu and former Devanahalli legislator Nisarga Narayanswamy, both of whom are keen to contest.

According to Mr. Kumaraswamy, besides three known aspirants from the party, three more have come forward to contest along with sitting BJP MP Muniswamy.

'To save party'

While the party was divided over Mr. Kumaraswamy contesting in the Lok Sabha elections, eventually the Core Committee cleared his name. Over the last two days, Mr. Kumaraswamy had been involved in convincing his Chennapatna electors and party workers that it had become inevitable for him to contest this election from Mandya to "save the party." Mr. Kumaraswamy, who represents Chennapatna constituency in the Assembly, is also the leader of the Janata Dal Legislative Party.

"Though we wanted to field either (former Melukote legislator) C.S. Puttaraju or Nikhil Kumaraswamy, workers have put faith in me," said Mr. Kumaraswamy.

In a high voltage battle during 2019 parliamentary polls, the former Chief Minister's son Nikhil Kumaraswamy had lost to BJP-backed independent Sumalatha Ambareesh from Mandya. Though Ms. Sumalatha had lobbied hard to get the ticket from Mandya from the BJP, the saffron party allowed it's ally to contest from the Vokkaliga heartland. She had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi among many senior BJP leaders to push her case. Speculations are now rife on her future plans with the actor-turned politician remaining silent over the last few days.

'May not release manifesto'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Tuesday indicated that the JD(S) may not release the party's manifesto for this election.

This is in contrast with what the party supremo H.D. Deve Gowda had said earlier that the manifesto, including the commitment to construct Mekedatu balancing reservoir, would be released.

Mr. Gowda had urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa to do the same in response to the DMK manifesto that has said the project would not be allowed.

Joint meeting on Friday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an effort to achieve coordination between the leaders and workers of Janata Dal (Secular) and BJP, a meeting has been convened in Bengaluru on Friday.

The meeting was scheduled after a discussion between H.D. Kumaraswamy and BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra on Tuesday.

All eyes on Sumalatha, Narayana Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

With the JD(S) formally announcing former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy as the BJP-JD(S) combine's candidate from Mandya Lok Sabha constituency in the forthcoming polls, all eyes are now on the next course of action of incumbent MP Sumalatha Ambareesh, who was hoping to seek re-election from the constituency as the BJP candidate.

Though Ms. Sumalatha had won as an independent candidate after defeating Nikhil Kumaraswamy, the Congress-JD(S) combine's nominee during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, she had declared her support to the BJP ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections in Karnataka. She had time and again reiterated that she was hopeful of securing the BJP ticket, but also made it clear that she would contest the elections only from Mandya Lok Sabha constituency, earlier represented by her late husband and actor Ambareesh.

Meanwhile, the Congress, which has already fielded Venkataramane Gowda, also known as 'Star Chandru', for Mandya Lok Sabha seat, said the party would welcome support from Ms. Sumalatha.

Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy, who is also Minister in-charge of Mandya district, recalled his close ties with the late Mr. Ambareesh and his family and said the Congress would welcome her support. With Ms. Sumalatha remaining tight-lipped even after the BJP declared that it had ceded the seat to JD(S) as part of the seat-sharing arrangement, the possibility of her returning to the fray as an independent candidate again is not yet ruled out. However, the Congress is hoping for the entry of former Minister K.C. Narayana Gowda to the fold.

Mr. Gowda, who had resigned as a JD(S) MLA representing K.R. Pet in Mandya along with 16 other Congress and JD* (S) MLAs in 2019 to trigger the collapse of the H.D. Kumaraswamy-led coalition government and paved the way for the installation of the BJP government in the State, has been clearly uncomfortable with the BJP-JD(S) tie up. He was among the few BJP leaders of Mandya, who had batted for Ms. Sumalatha's candidature.

Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy said Mr. Gowda is in "contact" with the Congress and was confident that he and the supporters of late K.R. Pete Krishna will join the party soon.

Illegal mining: Trial under way in four CBI cases against Reddy

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

At least four cases pertaining to illegal mining registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) are pending against former Minister and mining baron G. Janardhana Reddy. The trials in these cases are on and are at various stages of inquiry.

G. Janardhana Reddy

Mr. Reddy, once an important leader of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Hyderabad Karnataka (now Kalyana Karnataka) region, who played a key role in the party coming to power for the first time in 2008, was arrested by the CBI on September 5, 2011, in the Obulapuram Mining Company illegal mining case. Before that, the Karnataka Lokayukta who probed illegal mining scam in the State said during 2006-2011 period, over ₹12,000 crore worth illegal iron ore was exported by mining mafia and named Mr. Reddy as one of the kingpins.

The BJP distanced itself from him ever since, and Mr. Reddy, after coming out on bail built the Kalyana Rajya Pragati Paksha and became an MLA from Gangavathi in 2023.

"The CBI booked Mr. Reddy in a total of eight cases - four pertaining to illegal mining and four pertaining to alleged benami transactions. He has been acquitted in all the four benami transaction cases. Trial is on in the remaining four illegal mining cases," Mr. Reddy's counsel C.H. Hanumantharaya said.

Barred from Ballari

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has barred Mr. Reddy from entering his home district Ballari, over fears that he may influence witnesses in the cases against him.

This prompted him to contest from Gangavathi, a taluk in Koppal district bordering Ballari.

Over five lakh apply for voter enrolment after publication of final electoral rolls in 18 districts

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

After the publication of the final electoral rolls for 2024 on January 22 till March 25 (the last date for enrolling), over five lakh people have submitted applications for voter registration in the 18 districts that go to poll on April 26.

As per ECI rules, eligible unregistered electors had time to update the electoral rolls till ten days before the last day of filing nominations. With April 4 being the last date for filing nominations in 18 districts, Monday was the last date.

According to data from the Election Commission, of the over 5 lakh applications received, 3.15 lakh have been accepted for registration in these districts.

Enrolment of unregistered voters

In districts that go to polls on April 26	In districts that go to polls on May 7
Applications submitted: 5 lakh	Applications submitted so far: 3.2 lakh
Applications accepted: 3.15 lakh	Applications accepted: 2.21 lakh
Applications rejected: 38,000	People in these districts can register till April 9, which is 10 days before the last date of filing nominations (April 19)
Highest applications received: In Bengaluru Urban 1.16 lakh	
Lowest applications received: In Kodagu 6,700	

Not more than 38,000 of these applications have been rejected on grounds of incomplete entries (where proper documents/ photographs have not been uploaded/enclosed) and duplicate entries, an official said.

In these districts, the highest number of applications have been received in Bengaluru Urban (1.16 lakh) while the lowest is in Kodagu at 6,700. Over 99% of the total applications in these districts were submitted online.

As per the revised final electoral rolls for 2024, published on January 22, Karnataka has 5.38 crore voters, including 2.68 crore women and 4,920 in the others' category. "This number of total voters may slightly change following the update. The total number of voters had increased by 4.08 lakh since the publication of the draft electoral rolls on October 27, 2023," the official said.

Remaining districts

In the remaining 16 districts that go to poll on May 7, people have time to update till April 9 (which is ten days before April 19, the last day of filing nominations for that phase). So far, over 3.2 lakh have submitted applications in these districts of which 2.21 lakh have been accepted for update. Overall, 54,000 of the new applicants in all the 31 districts are first-time voters, who will turn 18 years old on April 1, the official said.

Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer, told *The Hindu* that the Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) for all the newly-added voters will also be printed and distributed before the date of polling.

In the 16 districts, people can submit applications online using the Voters Service Portal (https://voters.eci.gov.in) or the Voter Helpline Mobile App for inclusion of their name in the rolls, he said.

For any information regarding electoral rolls, EPICs, and submission of applications, individuals may contact the respective District Election Officers, Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, and BoothLLvel Officers. They can also contact the toll free number 1950 (180042551950), he added.

Shivakumar on 'temple run' in coastal Karnataka and Malnad

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU/BENGALURU

Tuesday was a day of a "temple run" for Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who had a packed schedule of visiting popular pilgrimage centres in coastal Karnataka and Malnad in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections.

Arriving at Dharmasthala late on Monday night, Mr. Shivakumar had the darshan of Lord Manjunatha and Annappa on Tuesday morning besides meeting Pattadhikari D. Veerendra Heggade. He proceeded to Kukke Subrahmanya by helicopter and had the darshan of Lord Subrahmanya and Hosaligamma. He went to Sringeri in Chikkamagaluru district later and had the darshan of Goddess Sharadamba and sought blessings from Bharati Tirtha Mahaswami.

Mr. Shivakumar's next flight was to Kollur in Udupi where he had the darshan of Goddess Mookambika in the afternoon. He travelled by road to Gokarna in Uttara Kannada district in the evening. Mr. Shivakumar would have the darshan of Lord Mahabaleshwara on Wednesday morning there before attending party workers' meeting at Kumta and later, he would be in Mysuru, according to his tour programme.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar visiting Kollur Sri Mookambika temple on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Terming the ensuing Lok Sabha elections as 'Dharma Yuddha', Mr. Shivakumar told reporters in Dharmasthala, that "just as Lord Manjunatha keeps his word", the Congress too has kept its word and implemented all the five guarantees made before the Assembly elections. The Shakti scheme has enabled thousands of women to visit pilgrim centres including Dharmasthala for free, he pointed out.

Other leaders

As temples and mutts are seen wielding enormous political power, politicians cutting across party-lines have been visiting places of worship and vying for the support of religious heads. While the Siddaganga mutt in Tumakuru district and other mutts have been successful in mobilising Veerashaiva-Lingayats for electoral purposes, the Adichunchanagiri mutt is seen as the authority of the Vokkaliga community.

In fact, even before the actual heat of the campaign, politicians have been rushing to temples. Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa along with his family members, including his son and State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra, performed "Chandika Homa" at Annapoorneshwari temple at Horanadu in Chikkamagaluru district on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters after the "homa", Mr Yediyurappa said it was conducted to seek blessings of the deity and bountiful rainfall in the State which has been facing severe drought. Mr. Vijayendra said religious rituals were performed to give more strength to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha elections.

No bar on commercial screenings of Shivarajkumar films, says EC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following a demand by the BJP's OBC Morcha seeking a ban on the display and screening of advertisements, movies and billboards featuring Kannada actor Shivarajkumar - whose wife, Geeta Shivarajkumar, is the Congress candidate in Shivamogga - the EC has made it clear that there can be no bar on commercial screenings.

"We can only ban the screening of films featuring actors who are contesting polls or campaigning on Doordarshan, which is run by public funds. Commercial screenings on TV channels and cinema theatres cannot be stopped," said Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer. Venkatesh Kumar R., Additional Chief Electoral Officer, said a similar plaint was lodged by the Congress in the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections against actor Sudeep, who was BJP's star campaigner. "We had made it clear then too that commercial screenings cannot be banned," he said.

BJP nominates Raju Gowda for Assembly bypoll in Surpur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP has nominated the former Minister Raju Gowda, also known as Narasimha Naik, as its candidate for the bypoll to the Legislative Assembly from Surpur (Shorapur) constituency in Yadgir.

The bypoll will be held on May 7, along with the Lok Sabha elections.

The seat became vacant following the death of MLA and Congress leader Raja Venkatappa Naik in February due to illness. The Congress leader had defeated Raju Gowda in the 2023 Assembly elections. Mr. Raju Gowda is a close confidant of BJP veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa.

The Congress has nominated Raja Venugopal Naik, son of Raja Venkatappa Naik, for the bye-election.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby inform to all the public that my client **Y. Hanumantha Reddy** resident of Judicial Layout, GKVK Post, Bengaluru, intended to purchase the notice Schedule Property and entered in to Agreement of Sale dated: 22-03-2024 from its rightful owner **Smt. Y.M. Savithramma** W/o Late B.R. Ramachandra residing at No.1561, 2nd Main, 5th Cross, Judicial Layout, GKVK Post, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560065. It is informed that my client has paid part of Agreement of Sale Consideration amount which was paid to the above said my vendor through Cheque, NEFT and RTGS transactions which was honoured by my vendor. It is further informed that my clients came to know that as though the Agreement of Sale is in subsistence the above said Y.M. Savithramma W/o.Late B.R. Ramachandra is trying to alienate the property to third parties. If any person/persons enter into any transaction of sale/mortgage/ agreement etc., they are not binding on our clients and they are doing it on their risk and they shall be liable for all civil and criminal actions initiated by my clients and liable for all legal consequences in respect of the notice schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the vacant site No. 1772, having BBMP Khatha No. 1892/1853/1772, situated at in the layout formed by The Karnataka State Judicial Department Employees Housing Building Co-operative Society Limited, Bangalore. As per the plan approved by the Bangalore development authority known as "Judicial layout", formed out of various land Sy numbers situated at Allasandra, Chikkabommasandra and Jakkur plantation villages, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and presently within the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru MahanagaraPalike(BBMP) Ward No. 04, and East to West: 60 feet 6 inches and North to South: 40 feet total measuring 2424 sq. feet including all rights, appurtenances, privileges, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface bounded as follows; East by: Road, West by: Site No. 1815, North by: Site No. 1771, South by : Site No. 1773.

Sd/- B. Kavitha, M/s. Kavitha Law Associates, Flat 1903, F Blk, 7 Hills Apartments Kokapet-500089, Hyderabad
Date: 27/03/ 2024 Place: Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the public that my clients **Mrs.P.Ebinmary,** W/o Mr.M.David Raj, and **Mr.M.David Raj,** S/o Mr. A. Maria Lucas, residing at No. 55. Rajagopala Mudaliar Road, Austin Town, Bangalore-560047 are purchasing the schedule mentioned property from the owner Mr.R. Karthigeyan. S/o Late Ramamurthy Residing at 21, 18th Cross, Ejipura, Begur Hobli, Viveknagar Post, Bangalore-560047.

Any person having objection in the said transaction may file objection before the undersigned advocate within Ten days from the date of this notice failing which the transaction shall be completed.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the residential property formed out of Sy.no.57/4, New.no.21. situated at 180 Cross Road, Ejipura, Begur Hobli, Viveknagar Post, Bangalore 560 047. (Now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike) Ward no. 148, Ejipura. Kormangala Range) Measuring East to West :25-00 feet North to South 40-00 feet Totally measuring 1000 Sq feet, Construction: 800 Sq feet house at ground floor built with RCC, cement flooring, Bounded as follows. **East by;** Site no.20, **West by;** Site no.22, **North by;** Private property. **South by;** Road

J. RAVINDRAN Advocate
No.310, 4th Cross, 6th Main, Viveknagar, Bangalore-569947. Mobile :9900609429

LOKNITI-CSDS

Is unemployment a major factor in shaping the vote choice of the youth?

In the debate over who bears responsibility in employment generation, the narrative swings like a pendulum between governmental bodies and individual citizens. This discourse not only reflects the complexities of economic challenges but also plays a role in shaping public opinion

Jyoti Mishra
Sanjay Kumar
Sandeep Shastri
Suhas Palshikar

For the upcoming Lok Sabha elections of 2024, Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have strategically crafted their narrative around four key pillars: the poor, the youth, women, and farmers, referring to them as the '*chaar jatiyan*' (four castes). This rhetoric is a departure from traditional caste politics in India, emphasising development and inclusivity under the pledge for a *Viksit Bharat* (Developed India). Among these, youth emerge as a critical focus. Prime Minister Modi's call to action in his 110th 'Mann ki Baat', urging first-time voters to participate through the 'Mera Pehla Vote - Desh Ke Liye' campaign, underscores the importance of the youth's engagement in the democratic process.

However, amidst these promises, a pertinent question arises: Does the BJP agenda truly resonate with the concerns of the youth, particularly regarding employment? Using data sourced from the Lokniti-CSDS survey, we attempt to unravel the pulse of the young electorate from Delhi. Conducted in the first week of March 2024, the survey involves interviews with 611 students in Delhi.

Not enough jobs

In the realm of electoral decision-making among Delhi's youth, unemployment and inflation emerge as the important issues shaping voting preferences. Nearly four in five youngsters assert that the issues of unemployment and inflation would impact their voting decision

Table 1: Perceived ease of attaining employment over the past two years

In last two years, availing employment has become	%
Very difficult	25
Difficult	55
Easy	16
Very easy	3

Note: *The rest did not respond.*
Question asked: Compared to the last two years, is it easier or more difficult to get work or employment now?

Table 2: Surety about job prospects relative to education among Delhi's youth

How likely are you to get a job with the course you are doing?	%
A lot	24
Somewhat	49
Not much	16
Not at all	10

Note: *The rest did not respond.*
Question asked: What do you think, how likely are you to get a job with study you are doing –a lot, somewhat, not much, or not at all?

Table 3: Aligning with Prime Minister Modi's vision of becoming job creators

Job giver or job seeker?	%
Preferred to become a job giver	47
Preferred to become a job seeker	27
Lack of resources to become a job giver	12

Note: *The rest either did not respond or gave other responses.*
Question asked: The government says that don't be a job seeker but be a job giver, do you think that you can become a job giver to others in the times to come?

Table 4: Student perspectives on becoming job creators across diverse backgrounds

Gender	Preferred to become a job giver (%)
Women	39
Men	58
Stream of study	
Arts	39
Commerce	54
Science	48

Note: *The rest studying other courses.*
Question asked: The government says that don't be a job seeker but be a job giver, do you think that you can become a job giver to others in the times to come?

Table 5: Youth believe that the people themselves are responsible for unemployment

Who is responsible for increasing unemployment?	%
Narendra Modi-led Central government	30
Kejriwal's State government	14
The people themselves	35
Jobs are decreasing in every country	9

Note: *The rest did not respond.*
Question asked: *According to you who is responsible for increasing unemployment*

Table 6: How the youth are not disregarding the government's effort in generating employment

Assessment of Modi government in generating employment	%
Modi government completely failed	16
Modi government tried but couldn't succeed	55
Modi government has been completely successful	25

Note: *The rest did not respond.*
Question asked: Some people believe that the Modi government has completely failed in providing employment, but some people say that Modi government tried its best but could not succeed. What do you think?

Table 7: Unemployment, the most influential factor for youth's voting decision

	%
Unemployment	41
Inflation	23
Narendra Modi's leadership	12
Corruption	9
Ram Mandir	5
Your religious identity	2
Beneficiaries from government schemes	1

Note: *All figures are in percent. The rest did not respond*
Question asked: Which one of these issues will mostly influence your voting decision?

The BJP initiated a narrative of transforming youth from job seekers to job creators within its vision for economic development. This idea promotes entrepreneurship, innovation, and self-reliance among the youth

Existing employment realities

Existing realities reflect the struggles and aspirations of Indian youth to secure employment within a constrained job market. The youth themselves are aware of the limited employment opportunities in recent times. Data indicates that an overwhelming majority of youth in Delhi believe that it has become somewhat difficult (55%) or very difficult (25%) to secure employment in the last two years (Table 1). Despite claims of economic growth, the issue of job creation continues to be the biggest challenge. This uncertainty significantly impacts the opinion of the youth on their future job prospects. A considerable proportion of students express uncertainty about their employment prospects, particularly concerning their educational qualifications. While approximately a quarter (24%) express confidence in securing employment, a significant portion remains uncertain (Table 2). The youth aspire to secure stable jobs with security, exhibiting a prevalent preference for government jobs – with three in five (63%) aspiring for a government job.

The BJP initiated a narrative of transforming youth from job seekers to job creators within its vision for economic development. This idea promotes entrepreneurship, innovation, and self-reliance among the youth, aiming to shift their orientation from seeking employment to creating opportunities, not only for themselves but also for others. Interestingly, when youth in the survey were asked about this slogan, nearly half aligned themselves with the Prime Minister's vision of becoming job creators, suggesting resonance with the government's emphasis on entrepreneurship. Conversely, a little over one fourth (27%) stated they would seek employment. Nearly one in 10 also mentioned an inability to marshal resources to generate employment for themselves and others. This segment does not directly negate the overall idea of job creation (Table 3). Across gender, men exhibit a higher preference for this role, with nearly three in five young men (58%) expressing their willingness to become job creators compared to two in five (39%) women intending the same. Moreover, within various streams of study, the preference for becoming a job creator was higher among commerce students (54%), followed by science (48%). Students studying the arts (39%) were less likely to aspire for this role (Table 4).

Who should generate employment?

In the ongoing debate over who bears the responsibility in employment generation, the narrative swings like a pendulum between governmental bodies and individual citizens.

This discourse not only reflects the complexities of economic challenges but also plays a significant role in shaping public opinion. The attribution of responsibility to escalating unemployment rates is clearly visible among close to half the respondents. Three out of every 10 youngsters hold the Central government accountable, while one seventh point towards the State government for the squeeze in job opportunities.

Moreover, one third of the students attribute individual responsibility to the lack of employment opportunities (Table 5) and this perception is further nuanced by the belief in the efficacy of the Central government's efforts. While some acknowledge the endeavours made by the government in creating job opportunities, others assert that these efforts have fallen short of expectations. Interestingly, only one in every six (16%) admitted to a complete failure on the part of the Central government in providing adequate employment opportunities (Table 6).

Will issue of unemployment drive voter's choice?

In the realm of electoral decision-making among Delhi's youth, unemployment and inflation emerge as the important issues shaping voting preferences. Nearly four in five youngsters assert that the issues of unemployment and inflation would impact their voting decision. When asked to select the most important issue that would shape their vote choice, the issue of unemployment eclipses other important concerns, with nearly two-fifths of the students emphasising its significance. In contrast, inflation (23%), leadership under Prime Minister Narendra Modi (12%), corruption (9%), and other issues trail behind (Table 7). This data captures the centrality of economic concerns, especially unemployment, in shaping the electoral calculus of Delhi's youth.

In the lead-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP has strategically positioned itself as the forerunner of development and inclusivity, particularly targeting the youth demographic. The data suggests that despite the BJP's emphasis on entrepreneurship and self-reliance, the youth's aspiration for stable government jobs persists, highlighting a desire for security amid economic uncertainties.

Furthermore, the attribution of responsibility for rising unemployment exposes the politicisation of economic issues, with divergent perceptions of the government's effectiveness in addressing this challenge.

Ultimately, the issue of unemployment emerges as a pivotal factor shaping the voting preferences of Delhi's youth, eclipsing other concerns such as inflation and leadership.

The writers are with the CSDS.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Fifth column (Sheela Paranjoti, New Delhi)."

" 'Fifth column' means 'a group working for an enemy within a country at war.' During the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), when Gen. Franco's forces were marching towards Madrid in four columns, a fifth column of his supporters actively assisted him within Madrid itself. Any organisation or individual working within a country to assist the enemy is called a fifth column. 'Fifth column' is a translation of the Spanish 'quinta columna.' A fifth columnist is 'a member of a fifth column, a traitor or spy.' The Fifth Column is the title of a play written by Ernest Hemingway in 1937 about the Spanish Civil War. 'Quinary' means 'of the number five,' 'having five parts.' 'Quinquennial' means 'lasting five years,' 'recurring every five years.' 'Quinquennium' means 'a period of five years.' 'Quinquagenarian' is 'a person 50 to 59 years old.' 'Quintan' means (of fever and the like) 'occurring every fifth day'. 'Quintet' is any group of five. 'Quintuplet' means 'each of five children born at one birth.' 'Quintuplicate' means 'five-fold.' 'In quintuplicate' means 'in five identical copies.' 'Quintessence' is the most essential part of anything. 'Quintessence' means the fifth essence. In ancient and medieval Western philosophy, it was believed that besides the four elements, earth, air, fire and water, the fifth essence or element, ether, was the most important and was considered the constituent matter of the heavenly bodies.

The Gita is the quintessence of the Upanishads."

"Early, early on (Shanta Barua, Calcutta)."

"They do not mean the same. 'Early on' means 'soon after the start of a past event'. It refers 'to an early point or stage in a process or course of events.'

Early on in life, he realised every person has a price.

Early on, his father told him that he would be a successful painter.

Early on, he was an indifferent student. Later he became a diligent one.

'Early' means 'before the usual or appropriate time.'

He gets up early.

You cannot say 'He gets up early on.'

Early on in his student days, he used to get up early. Now he does not."

"Instantly, instantaneously (Subha Chatterjee, Darjeeling)."

" 'Instantly' means 'immediately, at once.'

When he heard the news, he left the place instantly.

I met him for the first time and liked him instantly.

'Instantaneously' means 'taking an imperceptibly short time to occur.'

When two events occur in such a way that the interval between them is imperceptible, you use 'instantaneous'.

The explosion occurred instantaneously when she touched the transistor radio.

There was an instantaneous applause when he arrived at the place of meeting.

These days only careful writers maintain the distinction between the two words."

Published in The Hindu on July 23, 1991.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Considered "the single most influential director of his generation", Quentin Tarantino was born on March 27 in 1963. Here is a quiz on his work

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
One of his films paid homage to the sub-genre of blaxploitation films, making it the only feature-length film directed by Tarantino that was based on another work. Name the film.

QUESTION 2
One scene in the cult classic *Pulp Fiction* has prompted discussion of the film's highly intertextual style, regarding the dance sequence of John Travolta. However, Tarantino credits the scene to which famous filmmaker?

QUESTION 3
This film in the spaghetti western sub-genre won Tarantino his second Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. The story follows a slave who trains under a German bounty hunter with the ultimate goal of reuniting with his wife. Name the film.

QUESTION 4
What is the name of the 1987 amateur comedy film directed, edited, co-written, co-produced by and starring Tarantino? Some of the film's dialogues were used in another film. Name both films.

QUESTION 5
In June 2020, Tarantino became an officially recognised critic on which website, where his reviews are part of the rating?

QUESTION 6
In 2022, Tarantino stated that this film is "the greatest movie of all time. Maybe not the best film, but the best movie ever made". Which is it?

QUESTION 7
This is the 2021 debut novel by Tarantino, a novelisation of his 2019 film of the same name. What is it called?

Visual question:
Identify this Tarantino film. What genre do these films belong to?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The importance of PL Handoo's victory in the 1989 general elections in Anantnag. **Ans: Highest margin of victory in percentage terms (97.2%)**
2. The importance of K. Ramakrishna's victory in the 1989 elections from Anakapalle. **Ans: Lowest margin of victory in percentage terms (0.0014%)**
3. The constituency which had the highest number of electors. **Ans: Malkajgiri, Telangana**
4. The constituency with the lowest number of electors. **Ans: Lakshadweep**
5. This person holds the record for the highest victory margin in absolute number terms in Indian elections. **Ans: Pritam Munde, Bharatiya Janata Party**
Visual question: Identify this gentleman. **Ans: Sukumar Sen, India's first Chief Election Commissioner**
Early Birds: Rajmohan. V| Tamal Biswas| M. Suresh Kumar| Sadhan Kumar Panda

Word of the day

Genuflect:
bend the knees and bow in church or before a religious superior or image; bend the knees and bow in a servile manner

Synonyms: scrape, kowtow

Usage: *People usually genuflect in front of the altar.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/genuflectpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈdʒɛn.jʊ.flɛkt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

‘Our world is built on basic science, and part of basic science is rationality’

Jayant Murthy, a senior professor at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, now has an asteroid named after him. He was conferred this honour by the International Astronomical Union

INTERVIEW

Jayant Murthy

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Scientist Jayant Murthy giving a talk at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. K.G. HARIDASAN

Not many people have the distinction of having a cosmic body named after them. Jayant Murthy, a senior professor at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, is one of them. Murthy just had an asteroid named after him by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) to mark his contributions to astronomy. The asteroid 2005 EX296, which was discovered at the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona by M.W. Buie in 2005, will now be called (215884) Jayantmurthy, “in recognition of his work in the NASA New Horizons Science Team to observe the ultraviolet background radiation in the universe,” said the IIA.

Murthy spoke to *The Hindu* after a talk he recently gave at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru. The talk, titled *Nightfall: An Asimov Tribute or How I made it into Wikipedia* focused on a research project he did with a student that examined the viability of the world that Isaac Asimov’s *Nightfall* is set in.

In the interview, Murthy talks about his own journey in astronomy, the importance of science outreach, and India’s space programme.

You spoke at this recent lecture at IISc about how science fiction often draws people towards science. Was that something that happened to you?
I read a lot of different things, including historical novels, Agatha Christie and P.G. Wodehouse. Science fiction was one of the things I read. Did it push me into science? I certainly found it exciting, but I can’t say that it was specifically what pushed me.

In 1981, the Space Telescope went to Johns Hopkins University, where you completed an undergraduate and postgraduate degree in physics. Did that influence your decision to continue studying there for your PhD?
What you do with your PhD is really about what you are interested in at that time and the opportunities in the college. This was just about the time when Hopkins got the Space Telescope, and it seemed like a good opportunity. The reality is that the people involved are busy with their own work, and there was not as much interaction between the Physics Department and the Space Telescope as might have been.

After receiving your PhD in 1987, you went on to work at Goddard Space Flight Centre. Then you returned to Hopkins, where you spent the next decade or so as a research scientist before moving to India in 2000, where you joined IAA. Can you talk about what prompted the move?
There were a couple of reasons. One was because AstroSat (an ISRO astronomy mission) was trying to take off, again from the ground floor of a major observatory, and it seemed like a good opportunity. As it turned out, AstroSat took a lot longer than one would have anticipated. It was launched in 2015, but discussions had started in the 1980s, and we started working on it in 2000-2001. That was too much time for me to spend on any mission, and I did less with it than I could have done. Also, the U.S. market is pretty saturated. While you do get to do good work, you’re not making much of a contribution; you are making an incremental contribution. In India, the community is much smaller, so you have more of an impact. That certainly has happened. Over the last twenty years, I have probably talked to at least 10,000 students. I have been teaching a fair bit, so you have this impact.

You do a considerable amount of science outreach, constantly talking to lay people. What, in your view, is the importance of science outreach?
One reason is that it is our mandate; our salaries come from the public exchequer. It is also in self-interest because science accounts for 0.7% of the GDP, whereas in China, it accounts for 2.5 %. It is abysmally underfunded, as you can tell from the output. If you go out there and show that science is interesting–hopefully we do that–it will eventually feed back into politics.

Also, people don’t understand how integral science is to their daily lives. They don’t have an appreciation for how much their lives depend on science, whether it is the technology used in cell phones or computers or medicine; you can’t survive without basic science. Our world is built on basic science, and part of basic science is rationality. We must teach people to think. Clearly, we have not done a very good job.

What are the biggest challenges you face with doing science outreach in India, where science and rationality must often battle with the country’s collective culture, including its values and traditions?
It is very hard. We do have a lot of dedicated people trying to do it, including the Science Society that I am part of.

But faith is so built-in in our society. I tell the students that they should go ahead and do whatever religious stuff, but at least understand why you are doing it. Don’t just do it because your parents tell you to do it, understand the basis behind it.

What, in your opinion, is the biggest change that India needs to make when it comes to enhancing its scientific contribution?
If you look at the places that are advanced, they all have robust academic establishments. Silicon Valley came up where it did because of Stanford (University) and Berkley (University of California, Berkeley). Or look at how they how they pumped the health system around Hopkins.

In Bangalore, it is because of IISc and because of all the engineering colleges that developed here in the 80s. You can say what you like about engineering colleges–and the money-making stuff–but it has given Bangalore a strong technical base and made it the science capital of the country. When you fund academics, you are investing in your future. You will have returns that far exceed what you put in. There was a study in Australia many years ago and they said that for every dollar you put in, you get five dollars out.

Money is one part of it, but it also requires a revamping of the education-al system. The new education policy is not going to do anything. It is drawn up by a bunch of people in elite places without knowledge of ground conditions.

You can’t just pile money into the university system that we have now, this bureaucratic system that doesn’t measure outcomes. All the students want to do is have fun in college and get out and get a job afterwards. Their parents, too, want them to get a job and money. The administration wants to sell itself, while teachers know that it’s in their best interests to give students good grades. No one cares about education in the middle. It is just a transaction.

What do you think of India’s current space programme?
I think the Space Program has done very well. There are many places where we can do better. For instance, the Chinese space programme used to be well behind us, but now, in 20 years, it is far ahead.

But the current revamp is good for ISRO. It was always supposed to be the Indian Space Research Organization, but they ended up getting into routine things. How is your 100th PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) going to be different from your 99th?

It is good that they are getting into private industry, but the main problem, I see, with the revamp is that the government has still not realised that space is still driven by government money. They are expecting private investors to come in, and that is not realistic. They have projected a lot of money being put into the system, but I think it may be difficult. We shall see.

ISRO will conduct START 2024 during April and May

The main objective of the training programme is to attract the youngsters to the fields of space science and technology.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will conduct the Space science and Technology Awareness Training (START) 2024 programme during April and May. In this connection, ISRO solicits Expression of Interest (EOI) to host START-2024 in educational institutes, universities, colleges within India who are offering UG and PG courses in physical sciences and technology.

The main objective of the training programme is to attract the youngsters to the fields of space science and technology.

The training modules will comprise introductory level topics on various verticals of space science and technology. In addition to these, there will be sessions on Indian space exploration programmes and research opportunities.

Post-graduate students and final year undergraduate students of physical sciences (Physics and Chemistry) and technology (e.g. Electronics, Computer Science, Mechanical, Applied Physics, Radiophysics, Optics & Optoelectronics, Instrumentation and other associated subjects) studying in educational institutes, universities and colleges within India are eligible to be considered for the training.

Last date for online registration of EOI through https://jigyasa.iirs.gov.in/START by institutes, colleges, universities is April 2.

Student registration opens on April 8 and ends on April 12.

Prices of under-construction projects increase 30.6% YoY across top 13 cities: Report

Cities such as Noida (7.1% QoQ), Greater Noida (6.1% QoQ), Bengaluru and Mumbai (5.7% QoQ each) witnessed the most substantial price increments in under-construction properties

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In 2023, residential prices increased consistently, making relatively affordable under-construction properties more attractive for investment and home ownership, reveals the latest PropIndex report by Magicbricks, a real estate platform.

Cities such as Noida (7.1% QoQ), Greater Noida (6.1% QoQ), Bengaluru and Mumbai (5.7% QoQ each) witnessed the most substantial price increments in under-construction properties.

The report shed light on a notable trend towards 2BHK units, also likely influenced by the increasing residential prices across various cities. GETTY IMAGES

Launch of new projects
Explaining the trends, Abhishek Bhadra, Head of Research, at Magicbricks said, “Historically, homebuyers have often favoured completed projects over new developments. But against the backdrop of increasing residential prices in 2023, there emerged a discernible shift in preference towards relatively more affordable under-construction properties.”

“Consequently, prices of under-construction properties are on the rise as well. In response to this evolving demand, we have observed that developers are swiftly expediting the completion of under-construction projects and launching new ones,” he further added.

According to a press release, the report underscores a notable surge in demand for under-construction properties, increasing 7.8% QoQ between January and March 2024. As a result, prices experienced a corresponding uptick, growing 1.7% QoQ and a significant 30.6% YoY. This momentum follows a previous increase of 6.32% QoQ recorded between October and December 2023, indicating a sustained positive trend in the market.

Furthermore, the report shed light on a notable trend towards 2BHK units.

Demand for 2BHK
According to Magicbricks, the demand share of 2BHK units increased from 32% (between October and December 2023) to 42% (between January and March 2024).

This trend was particularly pronounced in cities such as Bengaluru (rising from 29% to 45%), Noida (increasing from 11% to 33%), and Navi Mumbai (from 18% to 54%).

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 27, 1974

Coal-Based Units in Serious Plight

Bangalore, March 26: Members of the Managing Committee of the Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on the Governor, Mr. Mohanlal Sukhadia here yesterday, and urged him to secure immediate relief to coal-based industries in the State.

A number of these industries had drawn the Chamber’s attention to their difficulties arising from coal shortage. The Chamber is shortly submitting a memorandum to the Government of India on the problem. According to Mr. Krishna Murthi, the Coal problem in the State arose from two factors. First, the coal-based industries under the linkage committee’s scheme had been assigned either to the Singarani Collieries in Bengal-Bihar belt, or to both and second the railway wagon shortages.

Comprehensive Farm Scheme for Kanakapura

Bangalore, March 26: A Rs. 1.25 crore scheme under the agricultural community development programme has been drawn up by the Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency for Kanakapura taluk, in Bengaluru district.

The comprehensive scheme covers soil conservation, farm mechanisation, irrigation, agriculture, credit inputs, and drinking water for villages, godowns and warehouses. The Agency has planned to spend about Rs. 83 lakhs on the first phase. The progress made in the implementation of the Agency’s various schemes were reviewed on Sunday at a meeting of the State level committee.

CITYBEATS

Navroz menu

ONGOING
SodaBottleOpenerWala has launched their Navroz menu, which will be available till the end of March. This menu, which offers you a Parsi feast, includes dishes such as *lagan nu* stew, *badami gosht* and Persian pudding with coffee ice cream.
At Plot Number 25/ 4, Lavelle Road, between 12pm and 11.30pm. Call 07022255299 for details.

Chocolate eggs and more

ONGOING
This Easter special brunch is more than a great spread; it will include music, Easter egg hunt and a curated menu for brunch. That apart, there will be live counters and stalls to ring in the festive spirit, assuring you that it will be more than just an experience of a celebration.
At Gawky Goose, Murgesh Palya

Easter specials

MARCH 28 TO 31
Dig into this Easter menu, that also comes with 'Eggstra Sassy' cocktails. The menu includes an emmental spiral soufra, chicken Wellington, seared jumbo prawns with strawberry basil relish as well as lamb chops with rosemary and grapes. Enjoy cocktails infused with blueberry, blood orange, carrot, Thai ginger, thyme and more.
At Suzy Q, Indian Express Building

'I do not associate myself with just one art form or dance style'

German dancer and choreographer, Moritz Ostruschnjak, talks about his journey and the importance of creating dialogue through movement

Shilpa Anandraj

Movement and expressions Moritz Ostruschnjak and stills from his work, *Tanzanweisungen (It Won't Be Like This Forever)*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Moritz Ostruschnjak brought *Tanzanweisungen (It Won't Be Like This Forever)* to Bengaluru. The dance was presented in the city as part of Attakkalari India Biennale 2024 at Bangalore International Centre.

The dance, featuring Daniel Conant, is a 30-minute solo self-reflective piece with ironic references that defy any specific definition.

The India tour of this project is supported by the Bavarian State Association for Contemporary Dance (BLZT) with funds from the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts.

Moritz ventured into contemporary dance through breakdancing. He studied at Iwanson International (Munich) and completed his training with Maurice Béjart in Lausanne. He has been working as a freelance choreographer since 2013 and is known for his works titled, *Island of Only Oneland, Text Neck*, *BOIDS*, *UNSTERN* and *AUTOPLAY*.

His works have been showcased in many European festivals and the dancer-choreographer is one of the Aerowaves Twenty21 Artists and in 2020 received the Promotion Award Dance of the City of Munich. The 41-year-old speaks from Attakkalari Centre, Wilson Garden, during his lunch break about dance and the process of creating an art work.

Edited excerpts:

You started off as a graffiti artist. How did the transition from a visual to a performing art happen??
It was a gradual process. I started graffiti at 13 and it was there that I discovered hip hop and breakdancing culture. I started breakdancing and did graffiti for a while. It was later that I moved to Munich which happens to also have one of the largest breakdancing communities. We trained everyday and danced in metro stations. It was 25 years ago, when there was not much training for street dance or breakdance. I also had a friend who would share videos of ballet, break dance and contemporary dance with me. This is how my passion and journey went. I studied ballet at 19 and four years of contemporary dance and soon was working and dancing professionally.

Where does dance leave your graffiti? Do you bring in aspects of graffiti into your dance?
I do not associate myself with any one particular art form or dance style. One thing I do feel closest to my heart is contemporary dance. Because in this form everything is possible. It allows me to mix all the different styles: traditional, pop culture, hip hop or Broadway. It is an

open form and I believe my work, even today, draws or is influenced by my days in hip-hop culture. Hip-hop music was invented by sampling. People would take a little from Funk and a little from Soul and put them back together and out of this emerged a new style. This is how I work with dance. All my work is inspired from bits and pieces that I have seen in videos, my training....

Do you still dance or just focus on choreography?
I am more into choreography. It takes so much of my time and my energy goes into organising and touring with my dance pieces. So I do not find the time to be a dancer. I am okay with this as I enjoy working with dancers and teaching.

In Indian classical dance, we have a foundation and a guru who teaches. As a teacher, how much freedom is given to the dancer, how much of your ideas are imposed on them?
I am not a fan of the term guru or this god-like figure. If you look culturally, everything comes from somebody. There is always someone before you who has taken information, worked on it and taken it further. Inventing something out of nothing is a myth. I do not believe in the concept that I am god-like and hence can dictate my creation. I work from a space that says things are already there and you have to make yourself sensitive in order to see those things. My style is more task-based work. I research and try to come up with certain methods that work with the time that we live in. Then the dancer is given certain tasks. For me, it is important that there is a dialogue between my dancer and me. I am also interested in understanding the movement archive and history of the dancer's body and the technique that comes with them. Sometimes, I do act as a facilitator, and can also be strict!

Are you open to working with anyone or do they have come with a certified training in dance?
Classical ballet is not the criteria for me. I have people in my group that do not come with an academic background. They, however, have a lot of dance in them. What I look for is playfulness and curiosity as a lot of things are tried out to come to finalised ideas. It is also important that the dancer is not judgmental but is open to discovering new ideas. Dance is also about hard work.

Do you see any difference in Indian contemporary dance? Our classical dances are all gravity-oriented whereas modern dance is all about defying gravity.
It is difficult to define contemporary dance. What is contemporary in Europe may not be so in India. In the dancers I have encountered here, I do see a difference. In Europe contemporary training is more individualised and is based on self expression. In India I see the beauty of classical dance being brought into contemporary dance, and find that amazing. In Germany we do not have this traditional background, which is sad and this is where India is unique and I find its influence in the contemporary context quite interesting.

All the city is a stage

Ruth Dhanaraj

Pick a back row at the movies and a front one for the theatre. On World Theatre Day observed on March 27 every year, we look at some of the city's spaces where expressions and emotions come alive on stage:

Goethe-Institut

Also known as the Max Mueller Bhavan, the auditorium here can seat 150 people. While you can catch a play here, the Institute does not let out their space for third parties to rent, using it only for their own and partner projects. However, they are open to collaborations and interested parties can submit their proposals to the Institute.
For details log on to www.goethe.de/ins/in/en/index.html

Ranga Shankara

With a seating capacity of 310 and a reputation for strict theatre timings, Ranga Shankara might be the most well-known theatre space in the city. It was founded in 2004 by Arundathi Nag in memory of her late husband Shankar Nag. With their rendition of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, they might be the only space staging a play on World Theatre Day.
For details log on to www.rangashankara.org

Bangalore Creative Circus

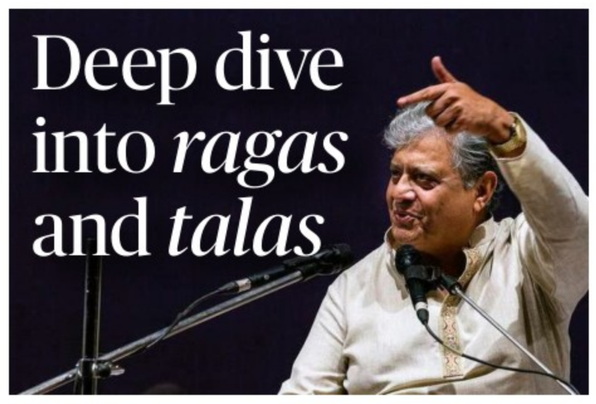
Operating out of what once was an old warehouse, the Bangalore Creative Circus is not a conventional space for theatre. Established in 2019, it can accommodate up to 200 people (or chairs) for a fulfilling stage show; the space is also used by art and other creative collectives, apart from workshops and interactive sessions.
For details log on to www.blrcreativecircus.com

Set the scene
These theatre troupes are spread out all over the city and with the increasing difficulty in commuting it makes sense to find one closest to you. Follow their socials to keep abreast of their upcoming plays, workshops and more:
Bangalore Theatre Company: Whitefield / @bangalore_theatre_company
WeMove Theatre: Jayanagar 1st Block / @wemove_theatre
Our Theatre Collective: Koramangala 4th Block / @ourtheatre.collective
TheatreNama Studios: Koramangala 1st Block / @the_theatrenama

Jagriti

Perhaps one of the first cultural spaces to open in South East Bengaluru, Jagriti Theatre with a seating capacity of 200, was founded in 2011 by Arundhati and Jagdish Raja. Over the years it has lent itself to creative expressions in music, dance and comedy performances apart from theatrical ones, in multiple languages.
For details log on to www.jagrititheatre.com

Deep dive into *ragas* and *talas*



Master's class Pandit Satyasheel Deshpande. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Music enthusiasts and performers are invited to delve into the world of Hindustani music with a three-part masterclass series led by Pandit Satyasheel Deshpande.

This opportunity promises to illuminate the nuances of this rich musical tradition.

The series begins with 'The Khayal and Individual Expression' (March 29, 6 to 8 pm), exploring rhythm's critical role in fostering unique artistic voices.

Pandit Deshpande will demonstrate how rhythmic structures (*talas*) empower creativity in folk, film, and classical Hindustani music.

Session two, 'Gharanas and Aesthetic Ideologies' (March 30, 6 to 8 pm), examines the *gharana* system. These distinct musical lineages will be presented as diverse philosophies of approaching *ragas* and *talas*.

The series culminates with 'Bandish' (March 31, 11 am to 1 pm), investigating the expressive power of these compositions. Participants will analyse various *bandishes*, gaining an appreciation for their intricate construction and performance techniques.

Pandit Deshpande, based in Pune, is a uniquely creative Hindustani classical vocalist who is widely respected for his contributions as a performer, composer, musicologist, scholar, researcher, author and guru.

He has also sung for films, most famously in *Lekin* with Asha Bhosle, for which he won the Best Playback Singer of the Year award.

From March 29 to 31 at Bangalore International Centre. Entry is free.To RSVP and for details, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Cauvery is not just about water: former Madras HC judge

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

For the people of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, river Cauvery is not just about water. "She is the giver of food, literature, music. Everything that makes our life Cauvery is connected," said Prabha Sridevan, former Madras High Court judge.

She launched the book, *Cauvery - A Long-winded Dispute*, published by *The Hindu* here on Tuesday authored by its senior associate editor T. Ramakrishnan.

Ms. Sridevan said her great grandfather had been one of the signatories of the agreement on water sharing. Later her grandfather was an assistant engineer when the Mettur dam on the river was constructed. Her husband, as a special government pleader, made several trips to New Delhi to appear at hearings of the Cauvery dispute cases in the Supreme Court.

'Managed to be fair'

"It is difficult to spell what Cauvery means to us. Therefore, it is perhaps very difficult to be objective. Mr. Ramakrishnan has managed to be very fair," she said, adding that being fair would enable a person to be truthful. "Cauvery is not just a matter of dispute between two States. The issue is much more complex involving many aspects, including demand side management, an area that has received little attention," she remarked.

"Language does not separate us. The boundary line does not separate us," she said, referring to an anecdote in the book where a woman from a remote village in Karnataka refers to the river waters as '*namma neeru*' (our water). She suggested that the book be translated into Kannada and Tamil as "it tells us how the pendulum swings and how at some point some extraneous factor that has nothing to do with it pushes it [what had been achieved] backward."

Prabha Sridevan, third from left, retired judge of the Madras High Court, with N. Ravi, Director, Kasturi and Sons Ltd; Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson of The Hindu Group of Publishing Private Limited; T. Ramakrishnan, author of the book; and N. Ram, Director, THG Publishing Private Limited; at the launch of the book, *Cauvery – A Long-winded Dispute,* in Chennai on Tuesday. M. VEDHAN

'Equally objective'

Kasturi and Sons' director N. Ravi, who has written the foreword for the book, said Cauvery is a unifying source as a cultural icon but as an economic resource, becomes contentious. "It is because of the asymmetry of power on the one side and the use on the other," he said.

"Actually, living in Tamil Nadu it is very difficult to be objective," Mr. Ravi said, recalling that S. Guhan, a former bureaucrat in Tamil Nadu, had objectively reviewed the issue in his book, *The Cauvery River Dispute: Towards Reconciliation* published by *The Hindu* in 1993. The current book is also "equally objective in treating the Cauvery without taking sides".

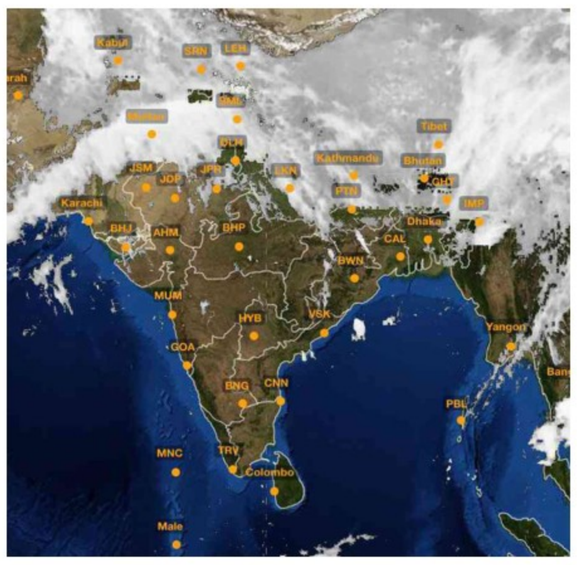
N. Ram, director, THG Publishing Private Limited, said Mr. Guhan had studied international agreements regarding rivers in other countries as well. He appreciated Mr. Ramakrishnan for meticulously digging out data and taking a firm stand on issues relating to the Cauvery.

Mr. Ramakrishnan said the idea was to make people of the entire Cauvery basin realise that "the river is a common precious resource to be used judiciously. There is enormous scope for the riparian States to work closer in the years to come as the river's environment is facing serious challenges."

The book is available for purchase at https://publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/hailstorm likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.6	20.5	Kozhikode	—	36.5	27.7
Ahmedabad	—	39.9	24.2	Kurnool	—	40.5	26.5
Aizawl	14	31.4	15.0	Lucknow	—	34.0	18.9
Allahabad	—	38.4	18.3	Madurai	—	37.2	24.1
Bengaluru	—	35.6	21.0	Mangaluru	—	33.6	25.2
Bhopal	—	37.3	22.6	Mumbai	—	32.9	22.9
Bhubaneswar	—	34.8	22.2	Mysuru	—	35.8	20.0
Chandigarh	—	33.0	19.2	New Delhi	—	34.6	17.7
Chennai	—	33.6	24.6	Patna	—	33.5	22.0
Coimbatore	—	37.4	23.4	Port Blair	—	32.2	24.0
Dehradun	—	30.2	16.2	Puducherry	—	33.6	24.0
Gangtok	52	17.5	9.7	Pune	—	39.6	21.6
Goa	—	32.9	24.2	Raipur	—	37.3	24.5
Guwahati	25	25.2	19.0	Ranchi	—	32.2	17.8
Hubballi	—	38.0	23.0	Shillong	11	18.5	9.4
Hyderabad	—	38.2	24.5	Shimla	—	22.8	13.1
Imphal	4	28.7	13.9	Srinagar	—	21.4	5.4
Jaipur	—	37.0	22.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.3	25.5
Kochi	4	32.6	26.8	Tiruchi	—	36.5	23.6
Kohima	10	20.2	8.0	Vijayawada	—	36.4	23.2
Kolkata	2	32.4	22.5	Visakhapatnam	—	33.1	25.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	175	.13	111	104	
Bengaluru	6	10	.36	108	123	
Chennai	.11	10	.94	54	41	
Delhi	.29	31	.33	189	165	
Hyderabad	4	.33	.46	68	123	
Kolkata	.15	.19	.17	36	81	
Lucknow	9	5	.68	67	107	
Mumbai	.83	.27	104	54	65	
Pune	.97	124	115	74	81	
Visakhapatnam	.13	.49	.26	75	113	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Rajgir, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 298 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Moily confident of ticket, while Raksha Ramaiah lobbies hard

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress party veteran and former Chief Minister M. Veerappa Moily says that he is confident of securing the ticket to contest Lok Sabha elections from Chickaballapur constituency.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on Tuesday, Mr. Moily said the party's Central Election Committee meeting is scheduled on Wednesday and the party high command is expected to clear his name.

Besides Chickballapur, the Congress has not declared candidates for three reserved constituencies of Kolar, Chamarajanagar and Ballari.

The 84-year-old Moily, who was elected from the Chickballapur constituency twice in 2009 and 2014, and lost in 2019, claimed that all five MLAs, one Independent MLA and leaders of the party have supported his candidature. "More than 98% of the party workers, leaders and MLAs are supporting me," he claimed.

Of the eight Assembly segments in the constituency, the Congress has five MLAs, the BJP has 2 and there is one Independent. Former State Congress Youth president Raksha Ramaiah, son of senior Congress leader and former Minister M.R. Seetharam, who belonged to Balija community, is also lobbying hard to get the ticket. Sources said instead of veteran leader, the party would prefer to field the young leader Mr. Ramaiah to take on the BJP in the constituency.

The BJP has fielded former Minister K Sudhakar, who lost the Assembly elections in 2023.

The Congress is also expected to announce candidates in the other three reserved constituencies on Wednesday.

Son-in-law factor

In Kolar, the party sources said Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa is lobbying hard to get ticket for his son-in-law Chikka Peddanna. However, the party appears to be in favour of giving ticket to local leader C.M. Muniyappa, who belongs to Right sect of the Dalit community.

Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa's son Sunil Bose will be fielded from Chamarajanagar.

Cash crunch plagues poll campaign of Cong. in Kerala

The cash woes stem from the I-T Dept.'s decision to block the party from accessing bank accounts

G Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress's Lok Sabha election campaign in Kerala is facing a cash crunch. On Tuesday, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan admitted that the party did not have money to buy "a glass of lime juice for election workers".

The party's cash woes stem from the Income Tax department's decision to block the party from accessing its bank accounts for belatedly filing the 2017-18 tax returns. A cash shortage will likely manifest in national leaders and star campaigners scaling down their campaign itinerary in the State. It will pressure over-stressed candidates to shore up resources to keep their campaigns on track.

A file photo of the roadshow taken out by Congress leader K. Muraleedharan.

A depleted election war chest will make massive rallies and high-profile roadshows few and far between. Losing the political money fight at the hustings could yield more propaganda space to rivals, demoralise workers, and deprive the disadvantaged party of the glitter of a colourful and healthy election campaign. The BJP and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) seem to have a cash edge over the Congress. The BJP's 10-year-incumbency advantage has given it sufficient time to muster resources to fund its expansive electoral operations in the States.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby notified that, my client Raghavendra Ishwar hosur, Residing at Chiguru Nilaya, Vinayaka Layout Madapatna Jigani Hobli Anekal Taluk has lost Original document of Discharge deed dated 07.05.2022 bearing document No.2063/2022-23, stored in CD No.BNSD1515, registered at the office of Sub-Registrar Banaswadi, Bangalore, pertaining to Property bearing site No.20, katha No.535/20, formed in converted sy no.535, Kalkere village K R Puram Hobli Bangalore east taluk measuring East to West: 33 Feet and North To South: 40 Feet, in this regard e-lost report was filed on 26.03.2024, vide No. 0991049/2024. If any person/s finds the said documents kindly inform the above stated person or address mentioned below. If any person/s misuses the said document, the same is not binding on our client and they shall do so at their own risk.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 8951856652, 9845846428

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **MR. SAIRAM A** S/o. Mr. A. R. A Narayanan and his wife **MRS.RAMYA VISWANATHAN** both R/at # 302, SLV Anveshna, HBR Layout, Bangalore-560043 are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **MRS.MAHALAKSHMI SUNDARRAJAN IYER** and her son **MR. SUMESH SUNDARRAJAN IYER** both R/at No.60, 4th B Cross, Vijaya Bank Colony Extension, Horamavu, Bangalore-560043 ; any person/s, Bank, Financial Institutions etc objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Residential Property being Northern Portion of Site No.60, Old Katha No.447 and Site No.60/1, Old Katha No.175, Present BBMP Katha Sl. No.831, formed in converted Sy. No.107/1, Situated at "SRI VENKATESHWARA LAYOUT" of Horamavu Village, K.R. Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, BBMP, Ward No.25, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 30 Feet, North to South 42 Feet, totally Measuring 1260 Square Feet, along with a residential house standing thereon and bounded on the:

East by : Road; West by : Site No.53/1; North by : Passage; South by : Southern Portion of Site No.60;

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 080-48658774

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **Smt.Sumathi.S** to bring to the notice of the general public that, **Smt.Sumathi.S** is the owner of Western Portion of Site No.84, formed in property No.32, Situated at Byrasandra, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under BBMP, Bangalore, East to West 15 ft and North to South 30 ft, total measuring 450 Sq.ft., along with house. and the same was gifted from my father **Sri Srinivasa P,** vide registered Gift deed dated 24.06.2019, Registered as document No.2592/2019-20 of Book I, CD No.KRID759, in the office of the Sub-Registrar K.R.Puram, Bangalore and my father has acquired the property through registered Partition deed dated 29.01.2009, registered as document No.4290/2008-09 of Book I, CD No.KRID323, in the office of the Sub-Registrar K.R.Puram, Bangalore.

Any person or persons having/asserting any right title or interest/claims in any manner may file their objections to the undersigned within **14 days** from the publication of Notice hereof with documentary proof where after no such claims will be entertained and my client will proceed with the purchase of the said property.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: BE-TLAC-RMPU-CAMC-24-27-1

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Centralized Comprehensive Maintenance Contract of RMPU and its control Panel of AC coaches (Conventional and LHB type) at Bengaluru, Hubballi & Mysuru Divisions and POH / SS-2 / SS-3 of AC coaches at Hubballi South & Mysuru South over SWR and escorting of AC coaches of the primary trains at Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya Terminal depot and Special trains across Bengaluru Division for three years.	Rs. 56,41,01,326.06

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 12-04-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/776/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

National Highways Authority of India
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)
Govt. Of India, PIU - Ramanagara (Mysuru)
www.nhai.org

PUBLIC NOTICE ON USER FEE (TOLL) RATES AT KANIMINIKE AND SHESHAGIRIHALLI TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to Toll Gazette Notification No. S.O. 402(E) dated 25.01.2023 and yearly revision of user fee rate as per Rule 5 of NH Fee Rule 2008 and its subsequent amendment and as approved vide letter dated 20.03.2024 of NHAI, the User fee (Toll) rates at Kaniminike and Sheshagirihalli Toll Plaza applicable from 01.04.2024 (0000 Hrs.) for use of Six Laning of Bengaluru-Nidagatta Section, Km 18.000 to Km 74.200 of NH-275 in State of Karnataka to be executed on HAM mode. Below mentioned toll rates will be revised w.e.f 01.04.2024.

1.At km 23.900, Near Kaniminike Village, Bengaluru Urban District, At Km. 26.800 near Sheshagirihalli Village, Ramanagara District of NH-275 in the State of Karnataka having tolling Road Length of 55.63 Km.

Amount in Rs.

Category	Fee for single Journey	Fee for return journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	Local Monthly Pass
Car/ Jeep/ Van	170	255	5715	340
LCV/ LGV/ Mini Bus	275	415	9230	
Truck/ Bus (2 Axle)	580	870	19345	
3 Axle Comm. Vehicle	635	950	21100	
Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment / Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	910	1365	30335	
Oversized Vehicles (7 or more Axle)	1110	1660	36930	

2. The following concessions are available at above Toll Plaza:
   a. Return journey within 24 hours from time to time of payment of all categories of vehicles (Discount 25%).
   b. 50 Single journey in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles (Discount 33%).
   c. Pass at Rs.340 for calendar month for non-commercial vehicle residing within 20 Km from toll plaza
3. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the amendment to Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950(E)
4. The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay 10 times the applicable fee rate and most the excess load to make use of highway as per Sub Rule 1(A) of Rule 10 NH Fee Rule 2008.
5. For viewing of toll fee notification S.O No.402(E) dated 25.01.2023 published in Gazette of India extraordinary. The website **https://tis.nhai.gov.in** may be visited
6. For any complaints contact: **1033** and enquiry or giving suggestions please contact **Project Director,** Basavanapura, Ramadevarapada, Ramanagara-562 128. **Ph: 080-29780089.**

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

PUBLIC NOTICE ON USER FEE (TOLL) RATES AT BAGEPALLI TOLL PLAZA. TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to approval of user fee rate vide letter dated 21.03.2024 of NHAI, the User fee (Toll) rates at Bagepalli Toll Plaza applicable from 01.04.2024 for use of Four/Six laning from km 462.164 to km 533.619 (AP/Karnataka Border to Devanahalli Section) of NH-7 in the State of Karnataka below mentioned rates will be w.e.f from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025

1. At km 464.774, at Bagepalli, Chikkaballapur District, of NH -44 in the State of Karnataka having tolling road length of 71.455 Kms.

Amount in Rs.

Category	Fee for Single Journey	Fee for return Journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	Fee for commercial vehicles registered within the district of plaza
Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	115	175	3905	60
LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	190	285	6305	95
Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	395	595	13215	200
3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	430	650	14415	215
Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	620	935	20725	310
Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	755	1135	25230	380

2. The following concessions are available at above Toll Plaza:
   a. Return journey within 24 hours from time to time of payment of all categories of vehicles (Discount 25%).
   b. 50 Single journey in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles (Discount 33%).
   c. Pass at Rs. 340 for calendar month for non-commercial vehicle residing within 20Km from toll plaza
   d. Commercial vehicle (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the district of toll plaza (Discount 50%).
3. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the amendment to Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950(E)
4. The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay 10 times the applicable fee rate and most the excess load to make use of highway.
5. For viewing of toll fee notification S.O.3024 (E) dated 26.11.2009 and amendment notification S.O.376 (E) dated 05.03.2012 published in Gazette of India extraordinary. The website https://tis.nhai.gov.in may be visited.
6. For any complaints contact: 1033 and enquiry or giving suggestions please contact Project Director, Bengaluru-Tumkuru Road, Beside Nagasandra Metro Station, Bengaluru - 560073 Ph no. 080-28394403/080-28394383.

THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES

FINANCE/ACCOUNTS

WANTED
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
Location : Thrissur, Kerala

Reputed multi crore Company is looking for a qualified Chartered Accountant possessing full command to deal with all affairs relating to accounts, audit, administration etc. Dynamic candidates, with 10 years post qualification experience in leading establishment, having held senior post need apply. Fluency in Malayalam is a must. An attractive remuneration package for the right candidate.

Interested candidates may send their detailed resume with a recent photograph within 7 days to:

thrissurca@gmail.com

GENERAL

COCHIN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Cochin University P.O., Kochi - 682 022, KERALA.
No. AdA1/27/2019 (I) Dated: 16.03.2024

NOTIFICATION

Applications in the prescribed format are invited from qualified candidates for appointment to the post of **Registrar** in the University in Academic Level 14 (UGC Scheme).

Last Date:
a) For submission of online application through online : 23.04.2024
b) For receipt of hard copy of the application : 30.04.2024

For details please visit University Website: ***www.cusat.ac.in***

(Sd/-) Dr. Manoj N
REGISTRAR IN-CHARGE

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुरूक्षेत्र
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
KURUKSHETRA - 136119

RECRUITMENT OF FACULTY
(Advt. Nos. 04/2024 to 63/2024)

National Institute of Technology Kurukshetra invites online applications from the Indian Nationals to fill up the faculty positions in various Departments of the Institute. For further details and submission of application through online mode, please visit Institute website: **www.nitkkr.ac.in**. The last date of submission of online application form is **25.04.2024 upto 11:59 p.m.**

Sd/-
Registrar I/c

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU businessline.
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR The Hindu Young World THE HINDU

Stop the war

Israel must heed the UNSC resolution for a ceasefire

Five and half months after Israel's assault on Gaza began, in which 32,000 Palestinians have been killed, another 74,000 injured, more than 90% of the enclave's population displaced and nearly all of them pushed into a devastating hunger crisis, the UN Security Council (UNSC), on March 25, called for "an immediate ceasefire" and release of all hostages held by Hamas. The United States, which has vetoed every UN resolution earlier that called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, abstained this time, signalling a change in the Biden administration's policy towards the war. All other members of the UNSC, including Britain, which until recently had resisted calls to back a ceasefire, voted for the resolution. Israel responded angrily, cancelling a planned visit of two of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's close cabinet aides to Washington, and, backed by China and Russia, blasting the resolution, for not conditioning a ceasefire on the release of hostages. But beneath the anger and outburst lies Israel's weakness. Israeli leaders have repeatedly said in recent weeks that an invasion of Rafah, the southernmost town where some 1.4 million Palestinians have been cramped into, was in the offing. It would be highly inappropriate, after 14 members of the UNSC called for an immediate ceasefire, for Israel to launch an attack on Rafah, which could end up in another bloodbath.

The latest war was triggered by Hamas's October 7 cross-border attack where at least 1,200 Israelis were killed. Israel had the sympathies and solidarity of the world on that day. But what Israel did in subsequent months was to punish the entire population of Gaza for what Hamas did, which turned international public opinion against it. If Israel makes an objective assessment of the situation, it should immediately abide by the UNSC resolution and declare a ceasefire. The October 7 attack itself was a massive intelligence and security failure for which Mr. Netanyahu should take responsibility. Instead of doing that, he went to war with full force, without proper achievable targets. After months-long fighting, Israel has turned much of Gaza into rubble, but has neither destroyed Hamas nor rescued hostages. The prolonged war has created fissures within the Netanyahu cabinet. The Prime Minister is immensely unpopular and his coalition partners are at war with one another. The war has also increased Israel's isolation, with tensions rising in its ties even with its close partners, including the U.S. If Israel continues the war with no clear end in sight, it will only worsen the domestic and international challenges it is facing, besides killing more Palestinians in the defenceless, battered, besieged, bombed-out Gaza. Mr. Netanyahu faces two choices. He can take the message from the UNSC seriously, stop the war, allow urgent humanitarian assistance into Gaza and continue talks with Hamas through international mediators for both the release of all hostages and the withdrawal of his troops from the enclave. Or, he can continue to lead his country in the dark in a state of permanent war.

Open season

BJP's push for alliance with BJD was an attempt to maximise gains

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), principal rivals in Odisha, nearly formed an alliance, and then pulled back to remain rivals. Even by the current standards of political morality, these moves were astonishing. The State unit of the BJP publicly opposed the move but the party appeared willing to give up 15 years of an anti-BJD campaign that gained it the status of the principal Opposition in Odisha. What could have been the mother of all opportunistic alliances was pursued with the goal of securing all 21 Lok Sabha seats in the State for the BJP, and BJD leader and State Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik continuing into yet another term in office without much of a contest. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid rich tribute to Mr. Patnaik's father, Biju Patnaik, on his 108th birth anniversary on March 5 and steered clear of attacking the State government. This was a reversal of the party's strategy until now. In 2019, the BJD had won 12 Lok Sabha seats and 43% votes while the BJP won eight seats and 39% votes. In the Assembly election that was held simultaneously, the BJP got 33% of the votes. The BJD and the BJP were allies until 2009, with the Congress as their main rival.

Mr. Patnaik is managing age-related constraints and trying to effect a transition to ensure that his political legacy continues. The BJP sees this as its best opportunity yet to win power. Parties that are dependent entirely on a single charismatic leader can face a crisis in their absence. Both parties could have achieved their immediate goals in the event of an alliance though it would have diminished them in the eyes of voters. In the general election in 2019, the Congress got only 13.4% votes in the State, a distant third behind the BJD and BJP. The party won Koraput and was runner-up in the Nabrangpur seat. This time, the party is hoping to cash in on the confusion created by the failed talks between the BJD and BJP. Along with former Congress President Rahul Gandhi's push for a caste census, it is hoping to draw dividends in a State where 50% of the population is from the backward community. Over the years, the party's organisation has weakened and the journey from rhetoric to reality could be a tough one. The alliance that did not happen shows that it is open season in Odisha.

A cry for help, a call for reflection and action

Sumant Kumar

is Assistant Professor in the Alliance School of Liberal Arts, Alliance University

The current socio-academic climate in India raises significant concerns in the context of the nurturing of students. The transformation of socio-economic dynamics is not only instilling a sense of despondency among youth but is also becoming a cause for stress in their academic endeavours. This often causes students to go into a spiral, manifesting itself tragically in a spate of suicides.

Take for example, reports of a note that a teenager from Bihar wrote before fading away in Kota, Rajasthan (the hub of tuition/coaching). The stress that the child was facing was evident in the reference to the 'Joint Entrance Examination' (JEE) that the child was preparing for. In 2023, there were reports of youngsters preparing for various competitive exams in Kota ending their lives. Based on police records, 15 students faded away in 2022; 18 in 2019 and 20 in 2018. There was negligible data during the COVID-19 pandemic years of 2020-21 when traditional coaching centres were either closed or operated virtually.

Coaching and student welfare in Kota

Every year, over 2,00,000 aspirants from every corner of India flock to Kota in pursuit of 'academic excellence', to prepare rigorously for 'coveted' entrance examinations such as the JEE and the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), the gateways to engineering and medical education in India, respectively. Enrolling in its residential coaching institutes, they ensure that Kota's economy thrives – an impressive annual revenue of "approximately ₹10,000 crore" due to these educational pursuits.

While the children pursue their goals, the management of these institutes have taken several significant, yet sombre, measures. Hostels have now been equipped with 'anti-suicide features' that include devices fixed to ceiling fans to prevent children from harming themselves and iron grills across balconies and passage ways. However, it is difficult to maintain uniformity in the approximately 25,000 paying guest accommodations in Kota.

In another preventive measure, the local government has stopped all routine testing in coaching institutes for over two months as a temporary measure. Hostel staff are also being trained and prepared to deal with the welfare of their wards. In the push towards professional development there is specialised training in mess administration, psychological support, behavioural counselling and an emphasis on overall student welfare. The Kota police have pushed hostel wardens to become more proactive by endorsing campaigns such as "*darwaze pe dastak* (knock on door)," while kitchen workers and meal service providers have been encouraged to alert authorities immediately if they notice students missing their meals or leaving their food untouched.

> The unyielding quest for scholastic distinction often causes many an Indian student to go into a spiral, with tragic outcomes

In 2022, according to data in the "Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2022" report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), over 13,044 Indian students ended their lives – 7.6% of the total suicide fatalities in that year. Another grim statistic was that the number of suicides (students) rose from 10,335 in 2019, to 12,526 in 2020, to 13,089 in 2021. As in NCRB data (2018), nearly 95,000 students faded away between 2007-18.

There is also another grim fact. Over half of India's populace, specifically 53.7%, is made up of individuals under the age of 25. However, a significant barrier to their entry into the labour force is widespread deficiency in essential skills. The last decade has seen a distressing rise in student suicides, which is also connected to a lack of viable job opportunities.

The education system

In contemporary India, the lack of (suitable) job opportunities, a limited number of seats in government institutions and the high fees charged in private institutions have all created a climate where there is intense competition. This is deeply troubling and an issue that requires urgent attention. The relentless strain of competition plays on the young student, which is made worse by the pressures imposed on the child by parents without understanding their child's wishes. While some are coerced, often relentlessly, into achieving the 'pinnacle' of academic excellence, others are urged to aspire for admission in a 'desired institution'. Many others face harsh criticism for failing to 'meet expectations'. When the weight of these demands proves unbearable, or their aspirations seem impossible to satisfy, some choose to escape all of this in a tragic way.

An All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report (2019-20), showed that only 21.4% of colleges are under governmental administration, with 78.6% under private entities (as reported by the Union Education Ministry). A study in 2008 in *The Lancet* revealed that nearly 61% of global suicide fatalities were concentrated in Asia. Numerous families in India (especially in the middle and lower-income brackets), face financial constraints that prevent them from providing their children with supplementary educational resources such as coaching and tuition. This lack of support in turn places immense and intense pressure on students to succeed in examinations of various kinds. A lack of success then leads to tragedy. Additionally, there are numerous instances of faculty members in institutions often chastising students for their subpar academic performance, when they should be offering encouragement and assistance instead.

Society and family expectations

In contemporary Indian society, there is a noticeable shift in family structures with a weakening of crucial connections between children and their families. This in turn impacts a child's ability to engage with their relatives. Various factors influence a child's development within the Indian context, in turn affecting social relationships. The lack of establishing strong bonds between parents and children becomes clear when parents impose their academic preferences on their child. Parental control, emotional detachment, and societal expectations contribute to the sidelining of a student's individual interests. As a result, students grapple with the hurdle of meeting parental standards, especially when they have no innate interest in the subject or course forced upon them. A feature in Indian society is the emphasis on expectations, performance, and personal interests in family interactions. These dynamics can either propel students forward through positive reinforcement or negatively affect them due to socio-economic circumstances.

The inability to satisfy parental expectations can leave young individuals feeling humiliated, dejected, desperate, and harassed. It is crucial to create an atmosphere of empathy and acceptance to cancel out any potential negative consequences for our younger generation.

The unyielding quest for scholastic distinction often overshadows the social facets of a student's existence, driving them to sacrifice interpersonal bonds and pursuits that are essential for a well-rounded persona. It is disconcerting to find young students voicing their inner turmoil on social media, signalling distress. Educational purveyors themselves fail to provide the requisite emotional scaffolding that these young minds require. Moreover, pupils from socioeconomically underserved communities are confronted with the stark actualities of endemic discrimination, thereby intensifying their hardships.

So, it becomes clear that there is an urgent need for our social infrastructure to grow more supportive and accommodative and support these young lives.

Those in distress are encouraged to seek professional help, visit counsellors or call helplines

Set the wheels in motion for a cyclists' manifesto

Rahul Goel

is Assistant Professor, Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Centre, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

Cycling in India should not just be considered as another transport issue. Contemporary western discourse on cycling is often framed within the context of decarbonising transport, and rightly so. In India, however, cycling is a matter of social justice with a transformative impact on people's lives.

Data on cycling ownership and use

Against the tide of a relentless growth of car-centric road infrastructure and an incessant increase in the ownership of motor vehicles, cycling in India has remained surprisingly resilient. Consider the household ownership of cycles over the two decades, from 1998-99 to 2019-21, using data from rounds two and five of the National Family Health Surveys, respectively. While, nationally, ownership increased only marginally, from 48% to 55%, in some States, however, the growth has been phenomenal. In Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, for example, the increase was from 30% to more than 75%, while in Uttar Pradesh, it was from 26% to 71%, and in West Bengal, from 53% to 79%. In comparison, population-weighted average car ownership across these four States was a measly 5.4% in 2021.

Data suggests that this increase in ownership of cycles also translates to higher use. In a working paper, a team at the Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Centre at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi analysed the data from the three rounds of National Sample Survey Organisation surveys on household consumption on education (2007-17). Among the many indicators, this data reported how children go to school – walking, by cycle, bus, or other. We independently collected data on the implementation of bicycle distribution schemes (BDS), using Right to Information applications, when necessary. Under these schemes, different State governments provide free bicycles to children using either in-kind or in-cash transfers.

> Political parties in India should focus on cycling, which in India is not another transport issue but a matter of social justice and transformation

Nationally, cycling to school increased from 6.6% in 2007 to 11.2% in 2017. In rural areas, the levels nearly doubled (6.3% to 12.3%) while, in urban areas, the levels have remained stable (7.8% to 8.3%).

We found that the States that saw the greatest decadal increase in cycling to school were those where BDS had been implemented. In Bihar, for example, BDS was launched in 2006, and the level of cycling to schools quadrupled from 3.6% in 2007 to 14.2% in 2017. The Sabooj Saathi scheme in West Bengal started in 2015, and the levels there increased from 15.4% in 2014 to 27.6% in 2017– a 12 percentage point increase over three years. The success of BDS across various States in India is a testimony to the huge latent demand for cycling.

Social outcomes

Access to cycles can have a profound impact on children's lives. Under BDS in Bihar, the State government provided funds to girls who enrolled in class nine to buy bicycles. Evaluations from Bihar and Karnataka suggest that the BDS is associated with the enrolment of girls in class nine and girls appearing for secondary school certification exams. Most importantly, these outcomes indicate that some children did not go to schools, or went there infrequently, as the schools were too far to walk to, and they could not afford a bicycle.

We recently evaluated the impact of a small-scale experiment in Bengaluru where a non-governmental organisation provided free bicycles to 170 low-income women working in garment factories. We found that two-thirds of those who were given a bicycle, along with some training, switched to cycling to go to work. Earlier, they either walked long distances or took a bus. When we asked why they had not considered buying a bicycle before, almost half responded that they could not afford it.

For many, owning a cycle remains a luxury. It is for a similar reason that there was a jump, by 23%, in daily bus ridership after Karnataka implemented the Shakti scheme, which provides free bus travel to women. Out-of-pocket expenses can be a major barrier to transport use.

More State governments should consider implementing BDS schemes, and these should be broadened in their coverage (for example, remove the restriction to rural areas, and extend them to urban areas). There are rare cases of States that have schemes for adults, such as Uttar Pradesh, that provide free bicycles to labourers. These should be considered for large-scale implementation.

Cyclists and urban challenges

In urban areas, though, the provision of cycles will not be enough. Roads are designed in ways that make cycling an experience full of hazards. Multi-lane roads, flyovers, and wide junctions make it extremely risky for cyclists to navigate through the traffic without inviting risks. According to an estimate this writer did for Delhi, for the same distance travelled, a cyclist is 40 times more likely to be involved in a traffic fatality than a car occupant. Cities should invest in dedicated cycling infrastructure such as cycle tracks, safe and secure parking, and repair shops.

In the parliamentary elections, political parties in India have the opportunity to promise a cyclists' manifesto.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ceasefire call

With the United Nations Security Council passing the resolution for a ceasefire in Gaza during Ramzan, one hopes for an end to the bloodshed and for greater sense to prevail (Page 1, March 26). Though the war began as retaliation for Hamas' attack, innocent children and women have fallen victim to Israel's deep anger. It is not clear how far Israel can succeed with this track against Hamas.

With the blocking of essential food items, it seems that Tel Aviv has adopted famine creation as a war strategy. Israel's reaction to the UN resolution is not encouraging.

J. Radhakrishna Kurup,
Ettumanoor, Kottayam, Kerala

Though silent on the culpability of Hamas for the dastardly attack on Israel on October 7, triggering immense suffering for Palestinians, the ceasefire demand must nonetheless be welcomed.

A suspension of hostilities would indubitably bring respite for millions of civilians reeling from the deadly war. However, it remains to be seen if the resolution would be honoured by the Jewish state, given its established track record of dismissing with impunity the UN resolutions against it. One can only hope against hope that a yearning for vengeance becomes subdued and the love for humanity prevails in its place.

Michael Jom,
Thiruvananthapuram

A discordant note

The late violin maestro, Kunnaikudi Vaidyanathan, was a regular invitee to the Ram Seva Mandali concerts in Bengaluru during Ramanavami celebrations. He was invited despite his playing film tunes, by request. Few cared to raise objections. He was adored by Carnatic music lovers of all age groups. The controversy that has enveloped musician T.M. Krishna is unfortunate.

In his enthusiasm to propagate Carnatic music he may have annoyed some purists and grazed against some time-honoured boundaries, but the public spat and consequent polarisation now among musicians and music lovers is most unfortunate (Editorial page, March 26). It reveals the petty-mindedness entrenched in some important musicians.

Mohan Das,
Bengaluru

As a reader of *The Hindu* for the past 75 years, to find that the daily has focused on a controversial Carnatic musician who has been steadfast in propagating anti-Brahminical views is baffling.

One cannot ignore the foundations of the structure of Carnatic music which has been built, step by step, by great composers of yore.

Sanakaranarayanan R.,
Chennai

The Carnatic music fraternity is a mature and friendly group. *Rasikas* are also well-informed and understand nuances. In the conferment of any award or title there is bound to be some disgruntlement. I am sure that tempers will calm and we will be back to having packed concert halls, with Mr. Krishna and the popular singer sisters spreading harmony and joy.

L. Rangarajan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

The democratic political process is broken

Ruchi Gupta

is Executive Director of the Future of India Foundation. X: guptar

The democratic political process in India is broken. It is not just that the institutional machinery has been captured, but that it is becoming impossible to alter the balance of power on any issue to chart a new way forward. At its heart, the democratic political process is not about regime change or "resistance". The purpose of democratic politics is to facilitate constructive collaboration, of which capturing power and regime change is one part. Seen thus, democratic politics is about building consensus in favour of certain paths and providing platforms for collective action. But all traditional sites of consensus-building – public discourse, civil society, and political parties – have evolved to structurally impede dialectical cooperation.

This is different from the issue of institutional capture because institutions of the state are downstream of the political process. Such institutions can neither be in the business of facilitating collectives nor mooting alternatives; they instead derive their credibility from procedural integrity. What is at stake here is more fundamental to our polity and speaks to our inability to collaborate. Consequently, even on issues which have deep public resonance, we as a polity are unable to move beyond outrage, protest, or resignation. It is crucial to identify the pathologies affecting each of these sites if we are to restore the democratic potential of our political process.

The nature of discourse

In a democracy, public discourse provides the space for the back and forth necessary to evolve consensus. However, three connected developments have rendered our public discourse unable to facilitate this. First, many institutional news media have lost credibility due to which they are unable to establish a baseline of facts or exercise narrative control. Second, the rise of social media has decentralised the manufacture and propagation of content making virality instead of substance the primary determinant of value. As a result, engagement is prioritised over quality or veracity. Third, with the loss of credibility of many mainstream media, there has also been a rise in hyper-partisanship wherein people are no longer interested in dialogue or deliberation and news/content is primarily a tool to promote factional interests. Finally, the proliferation of media has led to the fragmentation of our collective attention while the steady stream of "content" has made all issues transient. In this backdrop, gaining visibility and capturing attention is more important than dialogue. Consequently, the public discourse has become a site for a million individual battles to capture attention and reinforce tribal affiliation.

Civil society plays a crucial role as the voice of conscience in any polity and is the natural site to moot alternatives. However, the locus of liberal civil society action has increasingly moved towards the state and its institutional intermediaries; civil society has become dependent on a permissive state to be able to function. In this model, civil society derives legitimacy from normative purity instead of drawing strength from its representativeness. It is thus suited more to single-issue campaigns than its ability to reconcile multiple viewpoints through negotiation. Civil society groups are also marked by the proclivity to bypass the political process in favour of institutional processes, such as judicial or bureaucratic interventions, to advance their agenda.

Finally, political parties have their own pathologies which shift focus to internal issues and reduce space for deliberation. Conceptually, one aspect of the role of the elected representative is to extrapolate constituency issues into a policy agenda. However, the average elected representative does not have the power and often even the inclination to do so, within the party setup. There is also uncertain electoral pay off from influencing the policy agenda versus directly intervening on behalf of the constituents for delivery of various services. Moreover, elections, even at the constituency level, involve a complex and variable mix of "representation" of constituency, State, and national issues. Consequently, all candidates except the local strongman derive a decisive fraction of votes from the party symbol. This tilts the balance of power heavily towards decision-makers for party tickets within the party. This is further compounded by the fact that institutional positions of power in any party are a fraction of the actual aspirants leading to a preoccupation with internal machinations and sycophancy.

All the traditional sites of consensus-building — public discourse, civil society, and political parties — have evolved to structurally impede dialectical cooperation

Our ability to come together

These various pathologies feed off each other to fracture our ability to come together. The media may highlight issues but moving forward requires organisation by civil society and political parties. On the other hand, the dysfunction in our information ecosystem has powered the rise of unserious individuals to positions of influence. The top-down nature of parties has altered the structure of civil society by raising the bar for grassroots mobilisation to an untenable height, leading civil society groups to direct their energies into lobbying through intermediary institutions or becoming agents for the execution of bureaucratic projects. This has depleted the organisational strength of civil society and reduced its ability to intervene in the political process for correctives. The dialectical nature of these pathologies resists easy fixes but for the world's largest democracy, the complexity of the issue is not reason enough to not try.

It's all in the family

No party in Karnataka can take a moral high ground on dynastic politics

STATE OF PLAY

S. Bageshree
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There was barely even a murmur about nepotism or dynastic politics after the Congress announced its second list of candidates, teeming with sons, daughters, and relatives of incumbent ministers and senior leaders, for the Lok Sabha elections. This is not surprising, though: no party in Karnataka can claim moral superiority on this count.

While the Janata Dal (Secular) or JD(S) has always openly been a "family party", the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) too has not been a "party with a difference" despite all its tall claims. At the core of multiple rebellions in the Karnataka unit of the BJP in the run up to Lok Sabha elections is the accusation that veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa, his son and party president B.Y. Vijayendra, and their coterie have a stranglehold on the party and choice of candidates. There are also at least five contestants who hail from political families in the BJP's list. The top leaders of the BJP, who never tire of taking digs at the Congress on this count, and who used to be critical of the "father-son" JD(S) until the party allied with the regional party, have said little so far.

The Congress, after its leaders failed to convince incumbent ministers to contest, has ended up fielding the children of five Cabinet ministers in the second list of 17 candidates: Sowmya Reddy from Bengaluru South, Priyanka Jarkiholi from Chikkodi, Mrinal R. Hebbalkar from Belagavi, Samyukta Patil from Bagalkot, and Sagar Khandre from Bidar. Barring Ms. Reddy, all of them

are in the electoral fray for the first time and under 35. The party has also fielded Prabha Mallikarjun, the wife of an incumbent minister and daughter-in-law of a powerful party veteran. All-India Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge has bequeathed Kalaburagi, the segment he won twice before losing in 2019, to his son-in-law Radhakrishna Doddamani. And the announcement of ticket for the Kolar seat is hanging fire over Minister K.H. Muniyappa's insistence that it be given to his son-in-law.

In the JD(S), as expected, two of the three seats that have come the party's way as part of the coalition arrangement with the BJP is being fought by members of H.D. Deve Gowda's clan. While H.D. Kumaraswamy is contesting from the high-profile seat of Mandya, his nephew and incumbent MP Prajwal Revanna is the candidate from Hassan. Mr. Kumaraswamy's brother-in-law, C.N. Manjunath, is also in the race from Bengaluru Rural, though on a BJP ticket.

The BJP has been facing rebellion in many constituencies, especially in the districts of north Karnataka, after announcing its candidates, but the loudest critics flagging the issue of "dynastic politics" are senior leaders K.S. Eshwarappa and D.V. Sadananda Gowda. Ironically, Mr. Eshwarappa is miffed that his son has been denied a ticket, apparently because Mr. Yediyurappa went back on his promise, and has vowed to fight as an independent candidate against his elder son B.Y. Raghavendra, from Shivamogga. Mr. Gowda, MP from Bengaluru North, has been denied a ticket and Mr. Yediyurappa's close confidante, Shobha Karandlaje, is contesting in his place.

Both leaders have been going out of their way to make it clear that their fight is not against Mr. Modi and that they are in fact trying to protect the core values he represents. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been fighting against the dynastic politics of the Congress, but here, the BJP is going the Congress way," Mr. Eshwarappa said. But it escapes no one that the BJP high command's decision to return the reins of the State party unit to Mr. Yediyurappa and his kin is a conscious one after its experiment of sidelining the senior leader failed. Mr. Yediyurappa may be the fall guy for now, but the buck stops with the national high command in the party hierarchy.

The Congress, meanwhile, has been talking about "winnability" as the reason for its choices, which has always been a euphemism for might and money. The party is not in an enviable position as its bank accounts have been frozen nationally by the Income Tax Department. This is being cited as one of the reasons to leave the local ministers and senior party leaders to their own devices; they are fielding their kin, funding them, and campaigning for them to ensure victory. Though there is no open rebellion against this trend, it bears no positive message for the party workers who don't have powerful fathers and grandfathers to back them.

It is time for comprehensive reforms to municipal elections

To deal with challenges with respect to the conduct of municipal elections, State Election Commissions need to play a far more significant role

DATA POINT

Srikanth Viswanathan

The Supreme Court judgment on the Chandigarh mayoral election gives us a good occasion to think more broadly about elections to municipalities. Elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are impressive democratic exercises in terms of timeliness of elections, the manner in which they are convened, and the clockwork nature in which power is transferred from one government to another. But elections to "first-mile" governments, i.e., panchayats and municipalities, is another matter altogether. The Court has only intervened to right one wrong in one city. A lot more remains to be done to strengthen first-mile governments in India.

The first issue with respect to municipal elections is that they are not being held on time. This is in violation of the Constitution. As per Janaagraha's Annual Survey of India's City-Systems 2023 study, over 1,400 municipalities did not have elected councils in place, as of September 2021 **(Table 1).**

The CAG's audit reports of 17 States on the implementation of the 74th Constitution Amendment Act (74th CAA) observes that over 1,500 municipalities did not have elected councils in place during the audit period of 2015-2021 across States **(Table 2).** Among larger cities, the Greater Chennai Corporation had elections in 2022 after a gap of nearly six years, and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi had elections after a delay of seven months, while the municipal corporations of Mumbai and Bengaluru are awaiting elections for over one and a half years and three years after the expiry of the term of their previous elected councils.

Second, where elections to urban local governments were held, in certain cases, councils were not constituted, and elections of mayors, deputy mayors and standing committees were delayed. In Karnataka, there was a delay of 12-24 months in the formation of elected councils after the declaration of election results in most of the 11 city corporations. As per reports, in 214 urban local governments (out of 304) in Karnataka, there was a 26-month delay in the formation of councils and election of chairpersons and standing committees for the first 2.5-year term, after election results were announced in September 2018. Further, after the expiry of the first term of 2.5 years in May 2023, the same urban local governments did not hold elections for chairpersons and standing committees for more than eight months as of 2023. The delay in Chandigarh by comparison was 12 days. Summary data on constitution of councils, and elections of mayors, deputy mayors and standing committees are not available easily.

The first challenge of holding timely elections requires determined enforcement with the Supreme Court's intervention. Article 243U of the 74th CAA stipulates that the duration of urban local governments is five years and that an election to constitute an urban local government should be completed "before the expiry of its duration". Further, in case of dissolution of the elected council by the State, the election should be held before the expiration of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution. Despite the Supreme Court stating in *Suresh Mahajan v. State of Madhya Pradesh* (2022) that this constitutional mandate is inviolable, State governments do not hold timely elections to urban local governments.

The second challenge is what the courts dealt with partially in the Chandigarh case. It appears to be an area that deserves greater policy attention in at least the following aspects: discretion of government officials in scheduling elections on time; possibility of the State government exercising undue influence on officials to delay elections; discretion of officials in identifying the presiding officer; possibility of conflict of interest as the presiding officer may not be independent; and the manual ballot paper-based process. A reform road map for timely, free, and fair elections is much-needed. The terms of mayors, deputy mayors and standing committees being less than five years accentuates this challenge by necessitating frequent elections, sometimes even annually. In India, 17% of cities including five of the eight largest ones have mayoral terms less than five years. We need a standardisation of mayoral terms of five years.

To deal with these challenges, State Election Commissions (SECs) need to play a far more significant role. Articles 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution state that the superintendence, direction, and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to panchayats and urban local governments shall be vested in SECs. Our analysis of municipal legislation across 35 States and UTs reveals that while except Meghalaya, all States have constituted SECs, only 11 have empowered them to conduct ward delimitation. The Court has emphasised that in the domain of elections to panchayats and urban local governments under Part IX and Part IXA of the Constitution, SECs enjoy the same status as the Election Commission of India.

Perhaps it is time to also evaluate a potential role for the SECs in the elections of mayors, deputy mayors and standing committees, given what happened in Chandigarh. Unlike the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, where there is a clear distinction between the legislature and the executive, in the case of a municipality, the mayor heads both the elected and the administrative wings of the city government. Given the reluctance of State governments to strengthen SECs, perhaps it is only the Supreme Court that can bring greater salience to municipal elections.

Challenges to municipal elections

The data for the tables were sourced from Janaagraha's City Leaders report and CAG's audit reports

Table 1: Urban local governments without elected councils across States and UTs

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total ULGs	No. of ULGs without elected councils	Sl. No.	State/UT	Total ULGs	No. of ULGs without elected councils
1	A & N	1	1	19	M.P.	409	16
2	Andhra	120	31	20	Maharashtra	399	-
3	Arunachal	19	-	21	Manipur	27	27
4	Assam	102	102	22	Meghalaya	11	11
5	Bihar	249	-	23	Mizoram	23	-
6	Chandigarh	1	-	24	Nagaland	39	39
7	Chhattisgarh	169	20	25	Odisha	114	114
8	D & NH, D & D	3	-	26	Puducherry	5	5
9	Delhi	4	-	27	Punjab	163	-
10	Goa	14	8	28	Rajasthan	213	-
11	Gujarat	165	3	29	Sikkim	7	-
12	Haryana	92*	75	30	T.N.	664	664
13	Himachal	61	-	31	Telangana	142	-
14	J&K	78	-	32	Tripura	20	20
15	Jharkhand	50	8	33	U.P.	750	-
16	Karnataka	338	207	34	Uttarakhand	93	7
17	Kerala	93	-	35	W.B.	126	126
18	Ladakh	2	-	**Total**		**4,766**	**1,484**

Source: Janaagraha's City Leaders report based on the data available on the Local Self-Government Directory, urban local government websites, telephone calls made to government officials and journalists, and newspaper reports. Data as of 16 September 2021. | *Haryana: ULBs - LSG Directory says that there are 92 ULBs in the State, whereas, **https://haryanacmoffice.gov.in/urban-local-bodies-department** says 87 (updated on 15 November 2021).

Table 2: Urban local governments without elected councils as per the CAG's performance audit reports

Sl. No.	State	No. of ULGs without elected council
1	T.N.	664
2	M.P.	347
3	Karnataka	210
4	Punjab	129
5	Haryana	50
6	Manipur	27
7	Rajasthan	6
8	Jharkhand	15
9	Andhra	22
10	Odisha	112
11	Uttarakhand	4
Total		**1,586**

Srikanth Viswanathan is CEO, Janaagraha

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation building in Mumbai

Source: CAG audit reports | The audit period for all the States is from 2015-2020 except Kerala, for which the updated position as on March 2021 was included. The audit covered 539 urban local governments.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 27, 1974

Coal production to be stepped up

New Delhi, March 26: The Department of Mines of the Union Ministry of Steel and Mines has decided to step up the production of coal without paying too much attention to the day-to-day wagon availability.

The Department seems to feel that unless it goes ahead with the task of stepping up coal production, it will never be able to achieve the targeted 95 million tonnes during 1974-75. But it is not known what alternative plans the Ministry has worked out to ensure against accumulation of pithead stocks of coal resulting from any disruption in railway movement.

The Ministry has also decided to step up the programme of exploration for new coal deposits. The Coal Mines Authority has already drawn up a programme for bulk purchase, including imports, of standardised machinery and equipment. The Singareni Collieries will also draw up a similar list and co-ordinate its activities with the Authority.

The Ministry has also decided to introduce an incentive scheme for officers making outstanding suggestions for the improved working of the coal mines. The Department of Mines would also like to take the initiative and responsibility in respect of all schemes for the utilisation of coal for the production of synthetic petroleum products and gasification of coal which are now being discussed by the various Ministries. The Ministry of Steel and Mines is fixing quarterly and monthly targets of production for each colliery. The collieries with higher production potential will be identified immediately. It is proposed to introduce a seven-day four-shift work programme in the collieries on a selective basis. Workers' representatives in these collieries will be consulted before the schemes are introduced.

PTI reports: The Railways, and Steel and Mines Ministries are drawing up an emergency programme to ensure speedy movement of coal and steel through efficient use of available wagons.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 27, 1924

Plague in Lahore

Lahore, March 23: Plague has not subsided in Lahore. If anything it has increased and about 20 deaths out of about 30 new cases everyday are reported.

From Page One

AAP, BJP stage protests in Delhi; leaders held

"Water cannons were used to disperse the protesters. Some of them were detained when they tried to break through a layer of barricades," a police officer said. In parts of central Delhi, security personnel equipped with anti-riot gear were deployed to ensure law and order.

Mr. Kejriwal was remanded in the ED custody till March 28 by a court. The Delhi High Court will on Wednesday hear the Chief Minister's petition against the ED arrest.

The petition, which has sought his immediate release on the ground that his arrest and the subsequent remand was "illegal", is listed before Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma at 10.30 a.m.

The Chief Minister, meanwhile, issued directions to his government to ensure that medicines and testing facilities are available to people at all government hospitals and Mohalla Clinics, Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj told reporters at a press conference.

Employment scenario in India grim: report

"This is notwithstanding the fact that non-farm employment grew at a higher rate than farm employment over the different periods prior to 2018," the report said.

Labour from agriculture was mainly absorbed by the construction and services sectors. Also, almost 90% of workers remain engaged in informal work, while the share of regular work, which steadily increased after 2000, declined after 2018.

There are widespread livelihood insecurities, the report added, with only a small percentage being covered with social protection measures, precisely in the non-agriculture, organised sector. "Worse, there has been a rise in contractualisation, with only a small percentage of regular workers covered by long-term contracts," the report said. While India's large young workforce is a demographic dividend, the report noted that they don't appear to have the skills to deliver – with 75% of youth unable to send emails with attachments, 60% unable to copy and paste files, and 90% unable to put a mathematical formula into a spreadsheet.

The lack of quality employment opportunities is reflected in the high level of joblessness among young people, especially among those who have achieved higher education, the report noted. "Many highly educated young people are unwilling to take on low-paying, insecure jobs that are currently available and would rather wait in the hopes of securing better employment in the future," the study said. The country is also facing the challenge of a substantial gender gap in the labour market, with low rates of female labour force participation.

Throwing light on the growing social inequalities, the report said despite affirmative action and targeted policies, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes still lag in terms of access to better jobs.

SC raises concern over the rich gagging media

Courts must tread cautiously while granting pre-trial interim injunctions, the Bench said, advising judges to follow the three-fold test to decide on such interventions before a full-fledged trial

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> Constitutional mandate of protecting journalistic expression cannot be understated, and courts must tread cautiously while granting pre-trial interim injunctions
>
> **D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**
> Chief Justice

The Supreme Court has highlighted the problem of the affluent getting pre-trial injunctions from courts against the media and civil society, gagging free speech and the public's right to information about important affairs.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said such ex-parte interim injunctions granted by courts rather mechanically spell a death sentence to journalistic stories even before the allegations against them are proven right, if ever.

"The constitutional mandate of protecting journalistic expression cannot be understated, and courts must tread cautiously while granting pre-trial interim injunctions," the top court said.

The Bench drew the spotlight on the phenomenon of 'SLAPP suits' or 'Strategic Litigation against Public Participation' gaining attention across jurisdictions. "It is an umbrella term used to refer to litigation predominantly initiated by entities that wield immense economic power against members of the media or civil society, to prevent the public from knowing about or participating in important affairs in the public interest," the court noted.

With ex-parte injunction preventing a media outlet from publishing the article or material anytime soon or even in the distant future, a case – which could include expensive allegations of libel by the cash-rich entity against the media or civil society – tends to drag on. "We must be cognisant of the realities of prolonged trials. The grant of an interim injunction, before the trial commences, often acts as a 'death sentence' to the material sought to be published, well before the allegations have been proven," the court noted.

It cautioned judges about how ad-interim injunctions in defamation suits, followed by prolonged litigation, harm free speech and public participation. It said courts should grant pre-trial injunctions only in exceptional cases. For others, an injunction against the publication of material should be granted only after the conduct of a full-fledged trial.

The court said judges should follow the three-fold test of establishing a *prima facie* case, examine the balance of convenience and see whether irreparable loss or harm would be caused to the applicant in a defamation case, before ordering a pre-trial injunction of a journalistic article.

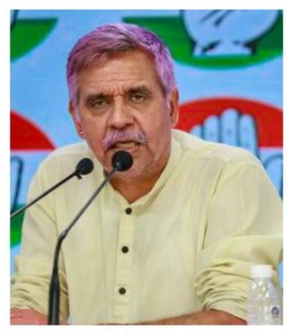
"The court must provide detailed reasons and analyse how the three-fold test is satisfied," it said.

The importance of leaving free speech unfettered is a strong reason for dealing most cautiously and warily with the granting of interim injunctions, the court underscored.

The order is based on an appeal filed by Bloomberg Television Production Services challenging an ex-parte ad interim order passed by a District Court in Delhi directing it to take down an article published on their online platform.

Working class was most affected under Modi rule: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI


Sandeep Dikshit

Spelling out details of its promise to ensure *shramik nyay* or justice for labour, the Congress on Tuesday said it would include the right to health, urban employment guarantee, increase in wages for MGNREGA workers up to ₹400 and reviving labour laws to protect the working class interest in its manifesto.

Addressing a press conference at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters, senior party leader and former MP Sandeep Dikshit said the working class had suffered the worst during the last 10 years of the Modi regime and deserved special attention.

He said that once the INDIA government comes to power, the party would bring a law for urban employment that would also include comprehensive social security, including health and accident insurance cover.

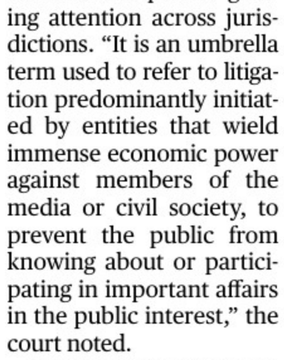
"We will bring back the labour laws that protect the workers. Right now, they are Labour Codes which don't mean much," he claimed, adding that INDIA bloc would abolish the contractual system of employment and regular jobs would be provided.

He disclosed that till 2018-19, more than three crore people had joined the agriculture labour. After 2014-15, about 6.5 crore people had migrated from other places and gone into agriculture. "This has happened for the first time in country's history," he said.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, in a post on X, noted that the growth rate of wages between 2014-15 and 2021-22 was less than 1% per year during the tenure of the Modi government.

'Centre's work has emboldened women to report crimes'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI


Smriti Irani

Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani on Tuesday slammed Congress leader Jairam Ramesh over his comments criticising the Centre's performance on women-related issues.

In a series of posts on X, Ms. Irani cited the achievements of her government and said the Congress leader "glosses over NCRB [National Crime Records Bureau] data, blatantly ignoring the initiatives of the Modi government, which have emboldened women to boldly report crimes".

On Monday, Mr. Ramesh listed the "massive failures" of the Ministry of Women and Child Development in the last 10 years, and said a new era of women's safety, prosperity, and development would begin when a Congress government "takes charge in June". He claimed that the Modi government's slogans of "*nari shakti*" remain empty words without real action.

Lashing out at his criticism, Ms. Irani dubbed Jairam Ramesh the "courtier" of the Gandhis. "For far too long, the dynastic rulers masquerading as the rightful heirs of India have plundered its wealth. Even after their downfall, their courtiers continue to distort facts, manipulating figures to undermine the BJP government's efforts for women's welfare."

Photojournalists covering AAP stir face police's wrath

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Police personnel seen grabbing the throat of Arun Thakur, senior photojournalist with the India Today group, at the AAP protest. PTI

Photojournalists covering the Aam Aadmi Party protests were harassed by the Delhi Police on Tuesday. The matter escalated between members of the press and police forces as photojournalists were attempting to click pictures of AAP leaders protesting Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest.

Salman Ali, a photojournalist with the *Hindustan Times*, was injured during the exchange, fracturing his elbow. Mr. Ali told *The Hindu* that there was heavy police force, and they were misbehaving with members of the media, going to the extent of grabbing a fellow photojournalist's collar.

A union of photojournalists reached the Delhi police commissioner's office to register complaints against the incident but were unable to meet him. They have sought time to speak to the commissioner about the matter.

Press Club of India (PCI), in a statement, condemned the act and demanded a high-level enquiry by a retired judge into what it called the "high-handedness of the Delhi Police".

Expressing shock over the incident, the Delhi Union of Journalists (DUJ) said it was not the first time that the Delhi Police had targeted the media to prevent the coverage of protests. "We urge the Election Commission and the Union Home Ministry to act against the erring police officers. We ask the media companies to ensure that safety gear is provided to their reporters, photographers and other staff who are on the ground to cover protests and police actions. We also demand proper risk insurance for journalists and their equipment," said the DUJ.

"Any form of assault on journalists and photojournalists is totally unacceptable," the PCI said.

Only AAP can decide who should be its leader: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday said only the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) can decide who should be the leader of its legislative party, when asked whether Arvind Kejriwal should continue as the Delhi Chief Minister after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate.

"Who should be the leader of a legislative party is decided by the MLAs of that party. No matter what an individual thinks, it is up to the party to decide. Whatever AAP decides, it is their decision," Congress spokesperson Sandeep Dikshit told reporters.

Replying to another question on Mr. Kejriwal issuing official orders from prison and the BJP calling these orders "fake", Mr. Dikshit said the BJP's assertion reiterated their [Congress] claim that the ED functioned as a wing of the ruling party.

Sensing China threat, India joins race to mine sea patch

Matsya 6000, a deep-sea exploration vehicle being designed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology in Chennai. R. RAVINDRAN

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Earlier this month, India applied to the International Seabed Authority (ISBA), Jamaica, for rights to explore two vast tracts in the Indian Ocean seabed that are not part of its jurisdiction. The application to explore one of these regions, a cobalt-rich crust long known as the Afanasy Nikitin Seamount (AN Seamount), is a gambit by India.

Rights to the region have already been claimed by Sri Lanka under a separate set of laws, *The Hindu* has learnt, but India's application is part-motivated by reports of Chinese vessels undertaking reconnaissance in the same region, a highly placed official, who declined to be identified, confirmed to *The Hindu*.

The AN Seamount is a structural feature (400 km-long and 150 km-wide) in the Central Indian Basin, located about 3,000 km off India's coast.

From an oceanic depth of about 4,800 km, it rises to about 1,200 metres and is rich in deposits of cobalt, nickel, manganese, and copper.

For any actual extraction to happen, interested explorers – in this case, countries – must apply first for an exploration licence to the ISBA, an autonomous international organisation established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Nirmala Sitharaman, Jairam Ramesh squabble over Atal Pension Yojana

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Back and forth: Nirmala Sitharaman defended the pension scheme after Jairam Ramesh's alleged that it was 'coercive'.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh got into a war of words over the Atal Pension Yojana (APY), after Mr. Ramesh termed the scheme "poorly designed".

Citing a media report on a sample study by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) on the pension scheme, the Congress leader, in a post on X, said the Atal pension scheme "is a fitting representation of the Modi government's policy making: headline management, with few benefits actually reaching the people".

Quoting the news report, Mr. Ramesh said that up to a third of the subscribers dropped out of the scheme because their accounts were opened without their "explicit" permission.

Further, he said nearly 83% of the subscribers are in the lowest slab of ₹1,000 pension, "because the monthly contribution for it is low and it goes 'unnoticed' by the beneficiaries".

"For subscribers, the amount of return is not very attractive since it is a fixed income pension, which loses value with rising prices," Mr. Ramesh noted.

In response, Ms. Sitharaman said the Congress leader "is known for using verbal sophistry to hide facts, is being malicious or is ignorant of the basic tenets of designing a good pension scheme".

"As per the ICSSR report, out of the 2,461 total surveyed, 38 have attributed exit due to their perception of account being opened without consent. This is ONLY 1.54% of the total (38/2461) and is NOT 1/3rd as mischievously mentioned by you!" she said. The Finance Minister said the pension scheme is based on best practice choice architecture to automatically continue the premium payment unless the subscriber opts out.

"Instead of requiring people to decide each year to continue, they have to take a decision to discontinue. This makes many of them take the right decision and save for their retirement," she said.

"Jairam Ramesh says that people are being 'hoodwinked and coerced' into participating! Hoodwinking is what the Congress does always – in the name of vote bank politics or minority appeasement," she said.

U.S. encourages 'fair' trial for Kejriwal

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The U.S. is following reports of the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and encourages a fair legal process, a State Department spokesperson said on Monday.

"We encourage a fair, transparent, and timely legal process for Chief Minister Kejriwal," the U.S. spokesperson said in response to an emailed query about the case.

Germany had a similar reaction on Friday. Asked about the arrest, Sebastian Fischer, spokesperson for Germany's foreign office said that like anyone else facing accusations, Mr. Kejriwal was entitled to a fair and impartial trial.

APPEAL

I am **Daisy Priyadharshini** aged 42 years diagnosed with S/P Mitral Valve Replacement and advised to undergo Complex Open Heart Surgery at The Madras Medical Mission, Chennai. The total expenditure is **Rs. 13,50,000/-**. My family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help me to lead a healthy and normal life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**. Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

Daisy Priyadharshini

No tie-up with Akali Dal; BJP to go it alone in Punjab

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The BJP on Tuesday said it will contest the Lok Sabha election on its own in Punjab, dismissing any possibility of a revival of ties with the Shiromani Akali Dal.

"The party has taken the decision [to fight in all the 13 seats] after considering the suggestion of people, workers and leaders of Punjab. The decision has been taken keeping in interests of all sections of society, and Punjab," BJP State president Sunil Jakhar said in a post on X.

Following the announcement, Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal said his party was not driven by numbers and that it was a movement committed to a clear vision of Punjab and the *Khalsa Panth* (Sikhs). "Our... principles are always above politics," he said.

Setback for Congress

The Congress suffered a setback as its Lok Sabha MP from Ludhiana, Ravneet Singh Bittu, quit the party and joined the BJP. He is the grandson of late Chief Minister Beant Singh.

Congress leader's comment on Kangana triggers row

BJP mulls legal action against Supriya Shrinate, approaches Election Commission for strict action; actor meets BJP president Nadda; facing backlash, Congress calls her 'daughter of Himachal'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress social media in-charge Supriya Shrinate's now-deleted post on actor Kangana Ranaut, who is set to contest her maiden election from the Mandi Lok Sabha constituency in Himachal Pradesh, has triggered a political row.

The Congress pointed to the explanation offered by Ms. Shrinate, with Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu terming Ms. Ranaut "daughter of Himachal", while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) went to the Election Commission demanding action against the Congress spokesperson.

On Monday, minutes after the social media post with objectionable references to Ms. Ranaut went viral, Ms. Shrinate posted a video issuing clarification.

"Many people have access to my Facebook and Instagram accounts. Someone from them made an extremely inappropriate post today. As soon as I came to know, I deleted that post. Everyone who knows me also knows very well that I can never make personal and indecent comments towards any woman. I wanted to know how this happened," she said.

Poll turf: BJP candidate and actor Kangana Ranaut arrives at party president J.P. Nadda's house in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Ms. Ranaut hit back saying she had played various roles in movies and every woman deserved dignity. "We must free our daughters from the shackles of prejudices; we must rise above the curiosity about their body parts and above all we must refrain from using sex workers challenging lives or circumstances as some kind of abuse or slur... every woman deserves her dignity...," she posted on X.

'Chotti Kashi'

The controversy continued to grow as Ms. Shrinate's clarification cut little ice. The Leader of the Opposition in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly, Jairam Thakur, said the BJP was mulling legal action as the pejorative references had not just been about Ms. Ranaut but also the district of Mandi.

"Mandi is known as *Chotti* Kashi as there are more than 300 temples here and people have immense faith in their deities. It is very unfortunate that a woman Congress leader made such derogatory remarks against Kangana. People will teach Congress a lesson for their remarks against a woman who has earned recognition through her acting skills," he said.

Ms. Ranaut also met BJP president J.P. Nadda on Tuesday evening.

National Commission for Women (NCW) chief Rekha Sharma has urged Congress leader Sonia Gandhi to "take action" against two of its leaders for using "derogatory" language against another woman. She said the NCW had written to the Election Commission seeking "stringent action against the party and the leader".

Ms. Shrinate's colleague Pawan Khera defended her. In a post on X, he said, "Anybody who has known my colleague will vouch for the fact that she can never resort to such objectionable language ever."

BJP meets EC on differing approaches of poll officials

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday approached the Election Commission (EC) to raise what it termed differing approaches of poll officials in different States to similar poll infractions by politicians, urging the commission to address the issue.

The BJP delegation included Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and national general secretary Vinod Tawde.

After the meeting with EC officials, Mr. Tawde said that while action was recommended against Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, who is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Karnataka, for her controversial comments against Tamils, the objectionable remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi by DMK leader and Tamil Nadu Minister Anitha Radhakrishnan have not drawn any censure.

In a memorandum submitted to the EC, the BJP demanded unconditional apology from Mr. Radhakrishnan. It asked the poll body to debar the DMK Minister from campaigning in the Lok Sabha election. It also demanded that directions be issued to the DMK to "refrain from disparaging Bharatiya culture" and "desist" from personal attacks on political leaders.

Mr. Tawde highlighted Shiva Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut's comparison of Mr. Modi with Mughal king Aurangzeb.

"While action was called for in the case of Ms. Karandlaje but poll officials seem to have a different stand in States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, all of which are ruled by non-BJP parties," he said.

INBRIEF

RJD, Cong. hold talks to iron out differences over seats

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav and Congress leaders held talks in New Delhi on Tuesday to sort out the differences between the two allies over the seat-sharing arrangement in Bihar. The meeting took place at Congress leader Mukul Wasnik's official residence. Another meeting could take place on Wednesday before a final agreement is announced in Patna. After the meeting, Mr. Yadav reiterated that there was understanding between the INDIA bloc members, and blamed the BJP for "spreading rumours about the alliance breaking up".

BJP fields ex-Congress MLAs who cross-voted in RS poll

Even as the Congress is yet to decide on its candidates for the Lok Sabha election, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has taken the lead in announcing its candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha election as well as the byelections for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly. All the six former Congress legislators, who cross-voted in favour of the BJP in the Rajya Sabha poll on February 27, were on Tuesday declared as BJP candidates for the Assembly byelection. In Himachal Pradesh, the four Lok Sabha seats will go for polling on June 1, and on the same day, the byelections for six Assembly constituencies will also be held.

Trinamool raises Ghosh's derogatory remarks with EC

The Trinamool Congress on Tuesday raised with the Election Commission of India (EC) the issue of derogatory remarks made against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee by the BJP candidate from Bardharman Durgapur, Dilip Ghosh. While starting his campaign from the new constituency, Mr. Ghosh targeted the Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson, and raised questions about her parents. The Trinamool wrote to EC that such remarks "lack decorum but also exhibit a blatant disregard for the dignity of a prominent political figure".

PM speaks to Rekha Patra, who led the Sandeshkhali protest

Nistula Hebbar
Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA/DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday spoke to Rekha Patra, BJP candidate from Basirhat Lok Sabha seat, on telephone and described her as *Shakti Swaroopa* (an embodiment of Shakti).

In a conversation that lasted for almost 10 minutes, Mr. Modi lauded the courage of Ms. Patra, who had raised her voice against local Trinamool Congress leaders, accused of sexual assault and land grab at Sandeshkhali in West Bengal.

Sandeshkhali village falls under the Basirhat Lok Sabha constituency.

Ms. Patra, who hails from Patrapara in Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district, was at the forefront of the recent villagers' agitation against Trinamool leaders. She made a statement before a magistrate in February 2024 on the alleged atrocities committed by Trinamool Congress leaders, which resulted in several arrests.

"You are going to play a big responsibility. How do you feel?" the Prime Minister asked.

"I feel very good. Your hands are on my head and all women of Sandeshkhali. It is like we are blessed by Lord Ram," Ms. Patra replied.

In the conversation, the BJP candidate said she would also work for the interests of the Trinamool Congress supporters, which was appreciated by the Prime Minister.

Ms. Patra also said that the villagers in Sandeshkhali had not been allowed to vote since 2011.

In its seventh list, Congress announces four candidates for Chhattisgarh, one for T.N.

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

One of them is an accused in the alleged coal levy money laundering case

The Congress on Tuesday announced its seventh list of candidates for the Lok Sabha polls. The list has five names, four of them from Chhattisgarh and one from Tamil Nadu.

With these four – Shashi Singh from Surguja, Menka Devi Singh from Raigarh, Biresh Thakur from Kanker (all three seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes) and Devendra Singh Yadav from Bilaspur – the party has now announced all the names from Chhattisgarh that has 11 parliamentary constituencies.

Among them, Mr. Yadav, a two-time MLA from Bhilai Nagar, has been named as an accused by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the alleged coal levy money laundering case, one of the major corruption allegations faced by the previous Congress government in the State. In last year's Assembly election where the Congress faced a rout, he was the lone exception.

Ms. Menka Devi Singh, the party's pick from Raigarh, hails from the erstwhile Sarangarh royal family. Her father, Naresh Chandra Singh, was the last king and had held the chief ministership of undivided Madhya Pradesh for a rather brief tenure, after having been a Minister for 16 years.

Its Sarguja candidate, Shashi Singh, also hails from a political family and carries forward the legacy of Tuleshwar Singh, a former Minister in Chhattisgarh.

She will take on her former party colleague, Chintamani Mahraj, who has been given ticket by the BJP. Notably, the BJP had swept all 14 seats in Sarguja in the last Assembly polls.

Mr. Thakur, from Kanker, is one of the two candidates who had contested in 2019 and has been fielded again, the other being sitting MP Jyotsana Mahant, who has been retained.

From Tamil Nadu's Mayiladuthurai constituency, State Mahila Congress president R. Sudha has been fielded. The party has now named all its picks for the seats it will contest as a constituent of INDIA bloc.

COAL INDIA LIMITED
(A Maharatna Company)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd **www.coalindia.in** / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Procurement Portal **htttps://eprocure.gov.in**. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**".

TENDER NOTICE

Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur invites the Tender for

1. Repair and repainting works at department of Law, First floor, Academic Building-III, CUTN.
2. Operation & Maintenance of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) 150 KLD (02 Nos) near Academic building and Hostel building at CUTN.
3. Surface dressing, red soil filling works at front portion of Admin block and Median portion (Main gate to Flag mast to Admin), Academic campus, CUTN.

Tender Ref. No.	Last date & Time
1. CUTNCVL20232421 2. CUTNCVL20232422 3. CUTNCVL20232423	please see the CUTN website **https://cutn.ac.in/tenders/**

Note: For more details please see the CUTN website www.cutn.ac.in and CPP portal

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECT) PHED, Ajmer
Qtr. No. II/2, PHED Colony, Vaishali Nagar, near RIICO Watch Factory, Ajmer
Ph. No. 0145-2640265, Email: acepajm.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

S.No. ACE/Proj/Aj/AR-JJM (NIT 11)/2023-24/7461 Dated: 26/03/2024

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

In continuation to this office NIT NO. 11/2023-24, issued vide letter No. 7360-7409 Dated 24.02.2024, the following amendments are hereby notified:-

S. No.	Description	As per original NIT	As per this corrigendum
1	Date of downloading tender document	26.02.2024 to 27.03.2024 up to 18.00 hrs	26.02.2024 to 04.04.2024 up to 18.00 hrs
2	Last Date and time for online submission of tender	Up to 27.03.2024 at 18.00 hrs	up to 18 Hrs. on 04.04.2024
3	Last date and time of Physical submission of tender fee, RISL charges and EMD	Upto 28.03.2024 at 13.00 hrs	up to 13 Hrs. on 05.04.2024
4	Date of opening of PQ bid	28.03.2024 at 15.00 hrs	AT 15.00 Hrs on 05.04.2024

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as mentioned in NIT and Bid document.

"SAVE WATER - SAVE LIFE"

(Gopesh Garg)
Additional Chief Engineer (Project)
PHED, AJMER

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537 / 4545)

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works.

1. आरपीपी, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में आबद्ध भंडार के लिए नोदक कच्ची सामग्रीओं के संचयन हेतु भवन का निर्माण (सिविल कार्य) / Construction of building for Bonded Store for storage of propellant raw materials at RPP, VSSC, Thumba (Civil works) / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/25/2023-24 Dt. 25.03.2024, (पी.ए.सी./PAC : ₹ 60.13 लाख / Lakhs)**
2. आरपीपी, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में 6 एमइवी लिनैक तथा 450 केवी रेडियोग्राफी सुविधा रखने के लिए आर-43 भवन का संवर्धन (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Augmentation of R-43 building for housing 6 MeV LINAC and 450 kV Radiography facility at RPP, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works) / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/26/2023-24 Dt. 25.03.2024, (पी.ए.सी./PAC : ₹ 229.30 लाख / Lakhs)**
3. हाऊसिंग कॉलनी, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में वीएसएससी सेंट्रल स्कूल के मौजूदा अर्ध-स्थायी श्रोताकक्ष का पुनर्सज्जीकरण (सिविल कार्य) / Refurbishment of existing Semi Permanent Auditorium of VSSC Central School at Housing Colony, VSSC, Thumba (Civil works) / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/27/2023-24 Dt. 25.03.2024, (पी.ए.सी./PAC : ₹ 120.83 लाख / Lakhs)**
4. एपीईपी, आलुवा में अमोनियम क्लोरैड शेड के लिए भवन का निर्माण (सिविल कार्य) / Construction of building for Ammonium Chloride shed at APEP, Aluva (Civil works) / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/28/2023-24 Dt. 25.03.2024, (पी.ए.सी./PAC : ₹ 252.11 लाख / Lakhs)**
5. क्यूडीएसी, वीआरसी, वीएसएससी के इलेक्ट्रॉनिक घटकों के स्क्रीनिंग हेतु नए भवन के लिए वातानुकूलन / Air conditioning works for new building for screening of electronic components for QDAC, VRC, VSSC / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/A01/14/2023-2024 Dt. 26.03.2024, (पी.ए.सी./PAC : ₹ 57.48 लाख / Lakhs)**
6. वीआरसी, वीएसएससी के बहु-मंजिले भवन (एमएसबी) में निम्न पार्श्व एसी प्रणाली का प्रतिस्थापन / Replacement of low side AC system at Multi Storied Building (MSB) at VRC, VSSC / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/A01/15/2023-2024 Dt. 26.03.2024, (पी.ए.सी./PAC : ₹ 259.00 लाख / Lakhs)**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading: दिनांक 27.03.2024, 10.00 बजे /hrs से /to दिनांक 11.04.2024, 23.00 बजे /hrs
योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/isro या www.isro.gov.in से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। / Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in.

Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक / Group Director, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / CMG, VSSC

Arun Govil returns home for a political battle

Anuj Kumar
GHAZIABAD

For months, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supporters have been chanting how Narendra Modi has brought Ram home. This week, Meerut is abuzz with praise for the Prime Minister for bringing Arun Govil, the actor who played Ram in a popular television series in the 1980s, home as well by fielding him from his hometown.

"Ram is back home for a political battle," said Rajesh Bansal, a BJP supporter. The transition from a mythological to a political avatar, evoking the memory of N.T. Rama Rao and M.G. Ramachandran, was imminent since last month when Mr. Govil played Mr. Modi with gusto in the film *Article 370*.

By fielding Mr. Govil, 72, from the tricky seat in western Uttar Pradesh, the BJP wants to secure the region by keeping Ram alive in the public imagination as he would be used as a star campaigner across the State.

Arun Govil, the BJP candidate from the Hapur Lok Sabha constituency, during a press conference in Meerut on Tuesday. PTI

BJP insiders say giving rest to three-time MP Rajendra Agarwal, who is of the same age and community as Mr. Govil and has deep roots in the Rashtriya Swayamsevek Sangh (RSS), was not an easy decision. However, it was on the cards after his narrow victory in the previous polls and his apparent disconnect with the new generation in the RSS.

The BJP has been winning the seat consecutively for three terms but the presence of 19% Scheduled Caste voters and around 34% Muslims makes the Meerut Lok Sabha seat challenging to harvest for the saffron party. In 2019, Mr. Agarwal defeated Bahujan Samaj Party's Haji Yaqoob Qureshi by a margin of just over 4,000 votes.

A former Minister in the BSP government, Mr. Qureshi, a big player in the meat business, is facing a string of charges; the Gangster Act has been imposed against him and his properties have been attached. "There is a sense in the Muslim community that the administration made him lose the poll and that he is being targeted because of his political heft in the region," said a Muslim leader requesting anonymity.

Surprise choice

The Samajwadi Party has also fielded a surprise choice in the form of Supreme Court advocate Bhanu Pratap Singh. Hailing from the Koli community in the neighbouring Bulandshahr, Mr. Singh is leading a vociferous campaign against EVMs and has a huge social media following.

A local SP leader said he was a surprise choice because senior Muslim and Gurjar leaders were in the fray but party president Akhilesh Yadav wanted to crack the caste arithmetic this time. "Mr. Singh is expected to create a Dalit-Muslim alliance," he said.

Mr. Singh's father was an associate of Chaudhary Charan Singh and he was active with the Rashtriya Lok Dal during the farmer agitation.

Political observers say the BSP candidate is going to help the INDIA bloc. The party has resisted fielding a Muslim or Dalit candidate and fielded Devvrit Tyagi to mine the discontent in the Tyagi community against the BJP after the Shrikant Tyagi episode.

SP spokesperson Abdul Hafiz Gandhi described Mr. Govil as a good person in the wrong party. "We all have grown up watching his performance in the Ramayan but his candidature means the BJP was feeling threatened in Meerut and surrounding constituencies. By fielding a celebrity, the BJP has yet again proved that it didn't want to fight the election on real issues and wants to exploit the emotive matters."

On Tuesday, Mr. Govil, speaking to reporters in Delhi, praised Mr. Modi for building the Ram Temple quickly but deflected questions on why he had opted to join politics now.

INBRIEF

State forcing separatists' kin to disown families: Mehbooba

Former J&K Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday criticised the Lieutenant-Governor's administration for "forcing the kin of separatists to disown their families". "Kashmir witnessed a time when gun-toting militants threatened and forced political workers to disassociate themselves from the mainstream or face dire consequences. Today the pattern is being repeated and what makes it even more disturbing is that the role is being played by the state itself," Ms. Mufti said. "Even after a brutal crackdown and suppression Government of India continues to feel paranoid," Ms. Mufti added.

Wind monitoring devices to be installed on bullet train route

Wind speed monitoring devices are set to be installed in up to 14 locations along the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor,. The wind speed monitoring device, also known as an anemometer, is designed to provide real-time wind speed data within the range of 0 to 252 kmph, and wind direction. "The bullet train will traverse through coastal regions in the western part of the country, where wind speeds are particularly concentrated in certain areas. These strong winds have the potential to impact train operations on the viaduct," a statement from National High Speed Rail Corridor Limited (NHSRCL) said.

CISCE postpones Class 12 Psychology examination

A day before the Class 12 Psychology examination, the the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) on Tuesday announced its postponement citing the loss of question paper packets at one of the centres. The exam will now be conducted on April 4 at 2 p.m. "One of the exam centres has reported the loss of class 12 Psychology question paper. The exam has been postponed," the board's deputy secretary Sangeeta Bhatia said. On February 26, the CISCE postponed the class 12 board exam for Chemistry citing unforeseen circumstances. PTI

NHRC issues notice to Bihar in sexual assault, death of minor

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Tuesday issued a notice to the Bihar government over the alleged sexual assault and death of a 13-year-old girl in Darbhanga district. The Vazidpur Police Station had failed to find out till the death of the victim that her parents and the panchayat tried to settle the case by asking the perpetrator to pay ₹1.25 lakh. "The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, amount to the violation of human rights of the victim girl. Accordingly, the Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Government of Bihar calling for a detailed report within six weeks," a communique stated.

India supports Philippines' sovereignty, says Jaishankar; sparks Beijing response

External Affairs Minister's Manila visit comes as tensions between the Philippines and Chinese navies rose to new levels; China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs says maritime disputes are matters between countries concerned and third parties have no right to interfere in the South China Sea issue

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India supports the Philippines's sovereignty, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in Manila, in comments that sparked a response from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which called on "third countries" not to "interfere".

Mr. Jaishankar's visit to Manila on Tuesday, where he met Philippines President Bongbong Marcos and Foreign Minister Enrique Manalo, is part of a three-nation five-day tour to Singapore, the Philippines, and Malaysia.

"I take this opportunity to firmly reiterate India's support to the Philippines for upholding its national sovereignty," said Mr. Jaishankar, reading his opening statement to the media during a joint press conference after talks with Mr. Manalo. He said that the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) was the "the constitution of the seas" and all parties "must adhere to it in its entirety, both in letter and in spirit", in comments seen as aimed at China, whose Navy and Coast Guard have been frequently accused of violating sovereign waters of other countries and claiming islands. China's actions have drawn protest from many Asian neighbours, including the Philippines, Vietnam, and Indonesia in the South China Sea (SCS) region.

Visit to ship

The External Affairs Minister also visited the Indian Coast Guard pollution-control ship *ICGS Samudra Paheredar* on Tuesday, which is on a port call in Manila until Thursday, and hailed maritime cooperation between the two countries. In a speech he gave on board the Indian ship docked at Manila's South Harbour, Mr. Jaishankar said that the ship's visit was "significant" because it highlighted "shared challenges" that India and Philippines face on oceanic pollution, illegal fishing, and protecting the environment in the region. He also underlined the need for "like-minded countries" in the Indo-Pacific region to enhance cooperation.

Naval relations: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Philippine President Bongbong Marcos. ANI

Mr. Jaishankar's Manila visit came as tensions between the Philippines and Chinese navies rose to new levels over aggressive maritime moves by the Chinese Coast Guard against a Filipino ship meant to carry supplies to their troops aboard the *BRP Sierra Madre* ship in the Spratly Islands. On Monday, the Philippines Ministry of Foreign Affairs had summoned the Chinese envoy to protest the actions, including the Chinese Coast Guard ship's physical blocking of the Philippines ship, firing it with a water cannon that injured three of its soldiers. The Chinese Coast Guard, meanwhile claimed that it was legitimately guarding "Chinese waters" from the "foreign vessel".

Reacting sharply to Mr. Jaishankar's comments in Manila within hours, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on India and the Philippines to "respect China's territorial sovereignty".

"Maritime disputes are issues between countries concerned. Third parties have no right to interfere whatsoever," the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Lin Jian said. "We urge relevant parties to squarely face the facts and truth on the South China Sea issue, and respect China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests and the efforts of regional countries to keep the South China Sea peaceful and stable," he added.

India's External Affairs Ministry did not respond to requests for a response to the Chinese MFA's remarks. Apart from the current controversy, Beijing is understood to be watching India's sale of Brahmos missiles to the Philippines very closely, deliveries for which are expected to be begin shortly.

Deepening ties

During talks with Mr. Manalo, Mr. Jaishankar said he discussed other areas of growing cooperation between the two countries, including trade and capacity-building in digital infrastructure. They also spoke on issues concerning the Indo-Pacific, Myanmar, the Ukraine war, and cooperation in common fora such as the UN and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). He said he had briefed the Philippines Minister on Indian naval deployment in the Red Sea to counter threats from Houthi militia and piracy. He also highlighted rescue operations, including those where Indian naval personnel have helped Philippines nationals on board ships in distress, including the *MV True Confidence* and *MV Lila Norfolk*.

DGCA defers deadline for implementing new pilot rest norms

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Federation of Indian Airlines wrote to the DGCA in Feb. for postponement of the June 1 deadline

Following pressure from airlines, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday quietly put in abeyance its June 1 deadline for implementing revised duty norms for pilots that provided for enhanced rest.

In the amended Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) uploaded on Tuesday, the DGCA said that airlines may continue to follow the older norms of 2019 till the regulator approves their internal schemes complying with the revised rules notified on January 1.

It has not defined any timeline within which the rules have to be implemented, in contrast to the earlier version of the same CAR. In that, the DGCA had said unequivocally that the rules will have to be implemented no later than June 1.

Tuesday's move comes as a surprise as the regulator on multiple occasions had said that it would not succumb to "scaremongering" by airlines.

The Federation of Indian Airlines, representing Air India, IndiGo, and SpiceJet, wrote to the DGCA in February seeking postponement of the June 1 deadline on the ground that implementing new norms would require them to hire "15% to 25%" more pilots for which they needed eight to 10 months. Else, there would be cancellation of 15% to 20% flights in the peak summer travel season.

In response, the DGCA reiterated that airlines must prepare to implement the rules from June 1.

The rules provide for weekly rest of 48 hours for pilots instead of 36 hours.

Ramakrishna Mission president dies at 95

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Ramakrishna Mission president Swami Smarananda passed away due to age-related ailments on Tuesday night. He was 95.

Paying rich tributes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Smarananda left an indelible mark on countless hearts and minds, and his compassion and wisdom will continue to inspire generations.

Smarananda became the 16th president of the order in 2017, the Mission said in a statement. "Srimat Swami Smarananandaji Maharaj, most revered President Maharaj of the Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, attained Mahasamadhi today at 8.14 p.m.," it said.

The monk was admitted to Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratishthan on January 29 with an existing urinary tract infection. He later developed respiratory failure for which he was put on ventilator support.

Activist ends hunger strike demanding Statehood for Ladakh

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Tuesday ended his 21-day-long hunger strike in support of the demand for Statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. He urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to "prove themselves as statesmen".

"It was for 21 days. From tomorrow, women's groups will start their fast and will be followed by youth, then monks and so on," Mr. Wangchuk told *The Hindu*.

Hours ahead of calling off the fast, Mr. Wangchuk urged the leadership of the country to "deliver on their promises".

"We need statesmen of integrity, farsightedness and wisdom and not just shortsighted characterless politicians. And I very much hope that PM Modi and Mr. Shah will soon prove that they are statesmen," Mr. Wangchuk said.

Sonam Wangchuk

He o reminded Mr. Modi of the promises the BJP made to the people of Ladakh. "PM Modi is a devotee of Lord Ram. He should follow his teaching of '*pran jaye par vachan na jaye*' (one may lose their life, but must not break their promise)," he said.

Mr. Wangchuk urged voters to "use their ballot power very carefully this time in the interest of the nation".

"Citizens are the kingmakers. We can compel a government to change their ways or change the government if that doesn't work," he said.

100 Indians forced into cyberfraud in Laos; 2 held

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police on Monday arrested two people for involvement in a case in which more than 100 Indian citizens were allegedly lured with offers of high-paying jobs in Thailand but taken to Laos, where they were held hostage and forced to work in a call centre from where fraudulent calls were made to people in Europe, the U.S., and Canada.

Officially, the police have registered only 12 victims but over 100 people are said to have been trapped by the accused.

The case came to light after one of the victims, Siddharth Yadav, 23, managed to escape and return to India with help from the Indian Embassy in Laos.

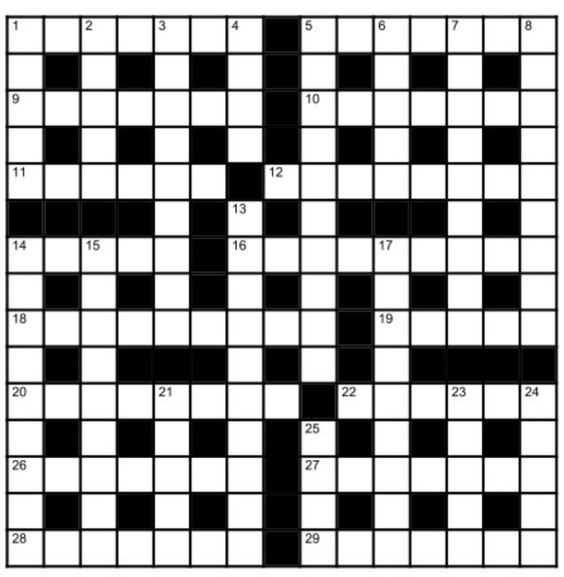
The victims were given instructions to make fake social media accounts to target people in Western countries. Following the embassy's intervention, five victims were rescued.

TH CROSSWORD + 14133

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Medium hard soap beats ordinary cleanser (7)
5 Relish a drop of honey in prune bringing back appetite (7)
9 Extended support? (7)
10 Runs after guy grows older (7)
11 Tenant's smaller room initially taken by sweetheart (6)
12 Strangle target or choke (8)
14 Secret language in unfinished Tagore novel (5)
16 Made fun of free style clue in 1-Down (9)
18 Testing an elector's patience (9)
19 Passage budding from love for boy in '70s Bollywood movie (5)
20 Regularly filtering info, basic data compiled has repetitive errors (8)
22 Shopping deal ends during month in Amazon, say (6)
26 Ready tea cakes and bread (7)
27 Multiple images from East of USSR at a variance (7)
28 Second book released by gambling site (7)
29 Woman grabbing warm blanket (7)

Down

1 Trick disheartened model, taking everything (5)
2 Lost American girl (5)
3 Assignment work? Essentially, it goes overhead often (9)
4 Line in-between bull and African antelope (4)
5 Seize authoritatively, before Knight does? (10)
6 Extremely useful article about radius (relating to a bone) (5)
7 Place entertaining late comers? (9)
8 The old criminal strayed in the past (9)
13 Dingo's evil action (10)
14 Camera feature for a narcissist? (9)
15 Australian city's unfriendly spirit, per Spooner (4,5)
17 Reckon copper kidnapped by cold mobster's dead (9)
21 Animal chiselled in Ashoka pillar (5)
23 Reportedly plotted to shoot (5)
24 Follow tennis? Sure - from time to time (5)
25 Major sporting event put up without access to podium (4)

SUDOKU

3	2	5						
				9		6		
					8		5	3
		9					4	
6	4			7			2	8
	5					3		
5	1		6					
		8		2				
						4	8	9

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

	T	R	I	A	L	A	N	D	E	R	R	O	R	
		I		T		M		E		I		C		
P	I	N	O	T		A	N	N	U	L	M	E	N	T
O		G		H		T		M		L		A		H
S	C	R	E	E	N	I	D	O	L		A	N	O	A
T		O		W				T		A		I		T
N	O	T	C	H	U	P		H	I	T	A	C	H	I
U				E		A		E		A				S
P	E	R	F	E	C	T		R	O	S	E	C	U	T
T		A		L		R				T		A		O
I	O	N	S		C	O	N	S	C	R	I	P	T	S
A		I		H		N		W		E		T		A
L	A	N	C	I	N	A	T	E			T	E	A	R	Y
		T		L		G		A		C		I		
	S	O	U	L	S	E	A	R	C	H	I	N	G	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	1	9	3	5	4	8	2
5	2	9	1	8	4	3	6	7
8	4	3	2	7	6	5	1	9
4	1	5	7	6	9	8	2	3
2	8	7	5	4	3	1	9	6
3	9	6	8	1	2	7	5	4
1	5	4	6	9	7	2	3	8
6	7	2	3	5	8	9	4	1
9	3	8	4	2	1	6	7	5

FAITH

Efforts of the Almighty

God undertakes various efforts to retrieve us from the sea of samsara. Sri Muralidhara Swamigal said in a discourse that Azhwars have called Him as a farmer of devotion. Like farmers resorting to one technique or another, He tries to adopt various ways to elevate us.

First, He introduced the Vedas, which deal with matters like the eternal world, good deeds, sinful deeds, births, moksha, and other philosophical contents. If we gather rainwater directly, it will be crystal clear and uncontaminated. It may be contaminated if we collect it through any other medium, such as pipes. Vedas are directly from God and, hence, very pure.

Like a king promulgating orders, the Vedas prescribe specific rules, such as *Satyam Vada, Dharmam Chara*: speak the truth and follow righteousness. Hence, it is called Raja Samhitha.

It is also called '*Aamnaayam,*' which denotes deriving knowledge through the blessings of gurus. God has taught the Vedas to Brahma, the God of creation.

Next, Vedantha Vichara raises four points – Acceptance of God; How to reach Him; Whether a person is qualified for the same; What is the ultimate benefit?

In the next stage, He transcended as Lord Rama and Krishna and mingled with people, hiding His supremacy.

INBRIEF

SpiceJet settles $91-mn dues with Canadian credit agency

Low-cost carrier SpiceJet said on Tuesday it had reached a settlement agreement with Canada's export credit agency, Export Development Canada (EDC), to clear dues worth $91 million owed by the airline. Under the terms of the agreement, SpiceJet will acquire full ownership of 13 Bombardier Q400 aircraft that were financed by EDC. The liabilities stem from a loan acquired by the airline in 2011 for the procurement of 15 aircraft, 12 of which are currently grounded.

Bharti Hexacom's IPO may fetch up to ₹4,275 cr. for TCIL

Bharti Hexacom Ltd., a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel, has announced an Initial Public Offering (IPO) to enable central PSU Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) to offload 50% of its 30% holding in the company. The price band has been fixed at ₹542 to ₹570 per equity share of a face value of ₹5 each. At the upper end, the offer for sale (OFS) of up to 7.5 crore equity shares would amount to ₹4,275 crore. The IPO will open on April 3 and close on April 5.

Industrialist Baba Kalyani's kin seek share in HUF assets

The children of industrialist Babasaheb N. Kalyani's sister Sugandha Jai Hiremath (72) have moved a Pune court seeking partition of the Kalyani family assets to get 1/9th of the share. Sameer Jai Hiremath (50) and his sister Pallavi Anish Swadi (48) have sought their share in the properties which include shares of several listed companies and unlisted limited companies of the Kalyani Group. They claimed they had a share in the Kalyani Hindu undivided family (HUF) assets.

'RBI actions to restrict credit growth'

S&P Global expects RBI's steps aimed at reining in lending, safeguarding customers to raise the cost of capital and restrain loan growth in 2024-25; investors may seek higher premium for increased regulatory risk, potentially affecting valuations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The spate of tough regulatory actions from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to rein in lenders' "overexuberance", enhance compliance culture and safeguard customers would raise the cost of capital and cause loan growth to slow to 14% in 2024-25 from 16% this year, S&P Global Ratings said on Tuesday.

While the regulator's actions reflect a "serious commitment" to improve governance and transparency at finance companies and banks, the rating agency flagged that the drawback of this drive would be to increase capital costs for institutions.

The rating major cited the RBI's recent moves to restrain certain lending by IIFL Finance and JM Financial Products, as well as curb the onboarding of new customers at Paytm Payments Bank, and said these were a departure from the "historically nominal financial penalties imposed for breaches."

"The RBI's new measures are creating a more robust and transparent financial system," said S&P Global credit analyst Geeta Chugh. "But the increased regulatory risk could impede growth and raise the cost of capital for financial institutions," she added.

While the RBI's measures were likely to lead to increased compliance costs for lenders and might curb the ability of smaller players to compete, it would also potentially curb excessive lending practices, the rating firm said.

"Combined with tight liquidity, the RBI's new measures are likely to limit credit growth in fiscal 2025. We expect loan growth to decline to 14% in fiscal 2025 from 16% in fiscal 2024, reflecting the cumulative impact of all these actions," it concluded.

Noting that finance firms were also vulnerable to confidence sensitivity, S&P Global said investors were likely to seek a higher premium for the increased regulatory risk, potentially affecting valuations.

Lower risk, higher cost

S&P Global expects RBI's measures to curb excessive lending to impede credit growth and raise the cost of capital

- S&P Global believes RBI's actions reflect a "serious commitment" to improve governance at finance companies
- It expects loan growth to slow to 14% in FY25 from 16% in fiscal year 2024
- 'Compliance costs for small lenders to rise, hurting their ability to compete'

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	72,470	-0.50
US Dollar	83.29	0.38
Gold	66,850	–
Brent oil	86.53	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3109.95	2.25
Adani Ports	1304.20	22.60
Apollo Hosp	6322.45	-53.45
Asian Paints	2814.65	-26.85
Axis Bank	1040.55	7.25
Bajaj Auto	8960.55	15.30
Bajaj Finserv	1593.90	6.35
Bajaj Finance	6910.10	149.20
Bharti Airtel	1213.10	-23.00
BPCL	599.85	7.05
Britannia Ind	4961.45	96.45
Cipla	1472.25	-9.00
Coal India	435.95	4.00
Divis Lab	3391.00	-40.45
Dr Reddys Lab	6134.85	-68.35
Eicher Motors	3911.10	-77.30
Grasim Ind	2240.05	16.50
HCL Tech	1562.25	4.40
HDFC Bank	1425.40	-17.45
HDFC Life	626.90	3.05
Hero MotoCorp	4671.15	-12.85
Hindalco	558.65	10.90
Hind Unilever	2240.00	-16.55
ICICI Bank	1083.70	-6.60
IndusInd Bank	1518.70	6.60
Infosys	1492.65	-16.20
ITC	427.65	-0.95
JSW Steel	821.90	-2.90
Kotak Bank	1753.70	-22.70
L&T	3670.10	52.30
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4975.20	-29.80
M&M	1863.95	-14.85
Maruti Suzuki	12250.55	-87.15
NestleIndia	2586.10	12.70
NTPC	329.10	4.35
ONGC	265.50	2.25
PowerGrid Corp	270.05	-5.70
Reliance Ind	2883.15	-26.90
SBI Life	1486.40	-14.70
State Bank	740.05	-6.65
Sun Pharma	1598.10	-10.80
TataConsumerProduct	1112.55	-10.20
Tata Motors	986.20	6.40
Tata Steel	152.40	0.60
TCS	3877.50	-33.40
Tech Mahindra	1254.35	-8.30
Titan	3698.20	-8.50
UltraTech Cement	9600.70	-81.05
UPL	465.40	-4.60
Wipro	479.85	-7.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 26

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.08	83.40
Euro	90.21	90.56
British Pound	105.19	105.59
Japanese Yen (100)	54.88	55.09
Chinese Yuan	11.51	11.55
Swiss Franc	92.08	92.44
Singapore Dollar	61.81	62.06
Canadian Dollar	61.25	61.49
Malaysian Ringitt	17.60	17.68
Australian Dollar	54.45	54.66

Source:Indian Bank

'India's forex reserves rose by $32.9 bn on BoP basis in April-Dec.'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The valuation gain amounted to $11.1 billion during April-December 2023, RBI data showed

India's foreign exchange reserves increased by $32.9 billion during April-December 2023, on a balance of payments basis excluding valuation effects, as against a depletion of $14.7 billion during the year-earlier period, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.

Foreign exchange reserves in nominal terms, including valuation effects, increased by $44 billion during April-December 2023, as against a decrease of $44.6 billion in the same period of the preceding year. The valuation gain, reflecting the depreciation of the U.S. dollar against major currencies, lower bond yields and higher price of gold, amounted to $11.1 billion during April-December 2023 as against a valuation loss of $29.9 billion a year earlier.

Q3 CAD narrows to $10.5 bn. on rise in services exports

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's current account balance recorded a deficit of $10.5 billion (1.2% of GDP) in Q3 FY24, narrower than $16.8 billion (2% of GDP) a year earlier and $11.4 billion (1.3% of GDP) in Q2 FY24, as per data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday.

The current account deficit as a proportion of GDP for Q2 FY24 underwent an upward revision to 1.3% from 1% earlier due to an upward adjustment of customs data on merchandise imports, the RBI said.

The merchandise trade deficit at $71.6 billion was marginally wider than $71.3 billion during Q3 FY23. Services exports grew by 5.2% on a year-on-year (YoY) basis on the back of rising exports of software, business and travel services, data showed.

"Net services receipts increased both sequentially and from a year ago that helped cushion the current account deficit," the RBI said.

Net outgo on the primary income account, primarily reflecting payments of investment income, increased to $13.2 billion from $12.7 billion a year earlier. Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, amounted to $31.4 billion, up 2.1% over the same period a year earlier.

In the financial account, foreign direct investment recorded a net inflow of $4.2 billion as compared with a net inflow of $2.0 billion in Q3 FY23.

Wipro-GE JV to invest ₹8,000 crore on expansion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Wipro GE Healthcare, a leading global medical technology firm, on Tuesday announced an investment of over ₹8,000 crore on expanding manufacturing and local R&D in the next five years in India.

Azim Premji, Chairman, Wipro GE Healthcare said, "India is riding the growth in the healthcare industry and rapidly expanding MedTech sector. This investment is a testament to our vision for this sector."

Aimed at building India's position as the key hub for MedTech, Wipro would manufacture PET CT, CT and MR coils 'In India, for the World'.

Daimler's CV unit to tap India for growth

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV), the wholly owned subsidiary of Daimler Truck AG, has initiated expansion work at its Oragadam facility as it has reached full capacity, said a top official.

"The Oragadam plant has the capacity to produce annually 36,000 trucks and 4,000 buses. We have already reached full capacity," said MD & CEO Satyakam Arya during a media interaction.

"We have started accelerating the expansion plan at welding and paint shops without any major capex. The first step is to reach 45,000 vehicles. This expansion programme will go on for three years."

DICV officials said in CY23, domestic truck and bus sales rose 39% from CY22, revenue by 21% and spare-part business by 21%. Export revenue grew 30%.

On CY24, he said the total industry truck volume will stay flat at 3.50 lakh units or dip 5% on account of polls. DICV will unveil 14 new products. It was also working on e-bus and hydrogen fuel cell trucks while evaluating LNG.

Adani Ports to acquire Odisha's Gopalpur Port

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Shapoorji Pallonji Group announced the sale of its brownfield Gopalpur Port to Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd. for an enterprise value of ₹3,350 crore.

"The under construction Gopalpur Port, located in Odisha, was acquired in 2017, with significant issues hampering its development. Post acquisition, the Shapoorji Pallonji Group commenced operations by building the port infrastructure and stabilising industrial relations," the company said in a statement.

The port can handle 20 million metric tonnes per annum of cargo.

'Govt. can't solve all social, economic problems such as unemployment'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Anantha Nageswaran

Asserting that it was incorrect to think that government intervention could solve every social and economic challenge, Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran contended that a diagnosis was easier than the solution when it concerned issues like unemployment.

Speaking at the unveiling of the "India Employment Report 2024: Youth Employment, Education and Skills" co-authored by the ILO and The Institute for Human Development on Tuesday, Mr. Nageswaran wondered what the government could do on the employment front "short of hiring more itself".

"In the normal world, it is the commercial sector who needs to do the hiring," he pointed out, while listing out the actions taken by the government to spur job creation in recent years, such as the skill development efforts and the National Education Policy of 2020, which he stressed should not "become hostage to political considerations."

The CEA also pointed to the corporate income tax breaks for salary payments as well as subsidies towards provident fund contributions and asserted, "Indeed, we can state very confidently now that the tax code no longer favours capital accumulation over employment generation."

Citing the 1970s' satirical film *Mohammed bin Tughlaq* written and directed by Cho Ramaswamy, the CEA said there is "an element of truth" in what the film's protagonist, who becomes the fictional country's Prime Minister and seeks to address problems like corruption, says about unemployment.

"For unemployment, he simply says, "Look, all I will do is I'll keep talking on every dais and stage that we have to solve the unemployment problem, and that is my contribution to solving the unemployment problem. Because this is not something I can address."

The CEA also wondered whether governments worldwide were reducing the incentive to work through welfare policies intended to 'ameliorate the negative consequences of unemployment' that ended up disrupting the labour market for the worse.

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Coimbatore - 641 043, Tamil Nadu, India.
Advt.No.AIHS&HE/2023-2024/Estt./ 01
Applications are invited from eligible women candidates for the following Non Teaching Post:

Name of the Post	Finance Officer
No.of.Post	01 (UR) *
Age Max	57
Pay Level as per 7th CPC Pay Matrix	Pay Level – 14 Group A post

Abbreviation: UR – Unreserved. * Men can also apply.
(Age relaxation as per Govt.of India norms)
The prescribed application forms and other details are available in our Institute Website www.avinuty.ac.in which can be downloaded. Last date of receipt of application – 25.04.2024.
Dated: 27.03.2024 REGISTRAR

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, KASHISH Bharat D/O Pradeep Gaurav Bharat, No A-701, Royal Park Residency, Rachenhalli Main Road, Thannisandra Bangalore- 560077. Have changed my name to Kashish Bharat Sahni before Sworn Notary Meer Hassan affidavit dtd 25-03-2024 Bangalore- 560011. Henceforth I Shall be Called as Kashish Bharat Sahni only.

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Coimbatore - 641 043, Tamil Nadu, India.
Advt.No.AIHS&HE/2023-2024/Estt./ 02
Applications are invited from eligible women candidates for the following Non Teaching Post:

Name of the Post	Assistant Librarian
No.of.Post	01 (ST)
Age Max	35
Pay Level as per 7th CPC Pay Matrix	Academic Pay Level – 10 Group A post

Abbreviation: ST – Scheduled Tribe
(Age relaxation as per Govt.of India norms)
The prescribed application forms and other details are available in our Institute Website www.avinuty.ac.in which can be downloaded. Last date of receipt of application – 25.04.2024.
Dated: 27.03.2024 REGISTRAR

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAVI, R/at No.70, 2nd Main 12th Cross, Sonnenahalli, Bangalore-560047 have changed my name from Ravi to Robert vide affidavit dated 26-03-2024 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

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DAKAR

Senegal President-elect pledges to fight graft after stunning victory

AFP

Senegal woke up on Tuesday to a new President-elect, Bassirou Diomaye Faye, a former tax inspector and political newcomer who was released from prison just weeks ago and had inspired voters, many of them unemployed youth, with a vow to fight corruption and reform the economy. AP

BEIJING

China files WTO complaint over U.S. new energy vehicle subsidies

AP

China has lodged a complaint with the World Trade Organization over subsidies provided by the U.S. for its new energy vehicle sector, Beijing said on Tuesday, accusing Washington of unfair competition. China's Ministry of Commerce urged the U.S. to abide by WTO rules and correct its "discriminatory industrial policies". AFP

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka cuts key interest rates, seeks China debt restructure deal

AFP

Sri Lanka's central bank cut interest rates on Tuesday as the Prime Minister visited China seeking a debt restructuring deal crucial to maintaining an IMF bailout. Transport Minister and government spokesman Bandula Gunawardana said Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena was in Beijing, the island's biggest bilateral creditor.

BRUSSELS

Belgium says 650 people with jihadist, extremists links on radar

REUTERS

Belgium's anti-terrorist agency on Tuesday said 650 people believed to have jihadist and other extremist ties are under surveillance in the country. The data was published as officials stress they are doing everything to prevent attacks after at least 139 people were killed in Moscow in a massacre claimed by the Islamic State. AFP

Julian Assange granted temporary reprieve from extradition to the U.S.

U.K. court gives Washington three weeks to assure it that Assange would not face the death penalty; the U.S. wants to try the 52-year-old Australian on 18 counts, for obtaining and publishing sensitive U.S. military and diplomatic information

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Small breather: Stella Assange, wife of Julian Assange, speaks to the media outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London. AP

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange was granted a temporary reprieve from being extradited to the U.S. from the U.K., after the British High Court ruled on Tuesday that he would not be extradited immediately and gave the U.S. three weeks to provide assurances regarding the trial of Mr. Assange.

The U.S. wants to try the 52-year-old Australian on 18 counts, for obtaining and publishing sensitive U.S. military and diplomatic information. Seventeen of the charges against him are under the U.S.'s Espionage Act. Mr. Assange has been imprisoned in London since 2019 after spending approximately seven years in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he had sought refuge from extradition to Sweden on rape charges. The investigation was dropped by prosecutors in 2019 due to lack of sufficiently strong evidence.

Mr. Assange has sought an appeal of the U.K. government's 2022 decision to extradite him on nine separate grounds. The High Court, which permits under-trials to appeal if it believes there are grounds to do so, said it was of the view that three of these grounds had a "real prospect of success" .

The court gave Washington three weeks to assure it that Mr. Assange would not face the death penalty (which is technically applicable in cases of treason under U.S. law). It also sought assurances that Mr. Assange, an Australian, would be able to rely on the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment (freedom of speech) rights during his trial and that the trial would not be prejudiced because he is not an American Citizen.

Decision by May 20

"It has given the Government of the United States of America and the Secretary of State an opportunity to offer assurances that would address those grounds of appeal," the High Court said on Tuesday. If Washington's response was not satisfactory, the court would allow Mr. Assange to appeal.

A decision is expected on May 20, which means Mr. Assange will not be extradited at least until then.

Addressing the media outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Mr. Assange's wife Stella Assange called the ruling "astounding".

She said that though the court had recognised the risks Mr. Assange was exposed to, it had sought a "political intervention" from the U.S., asking Washington to declare, "It's all okay."

The Biden administration should not issue assurances, Ms. Assange said, asking it instead to drop this "shameful case".

In its 2019 indictment, the U.S. had said that starting in 2009, Mr. Assange aided, abetted and caused a (then) intelligence officer, Chelsea Manning, to give him classified documents.

Israel and Hamas dig in as international pressure mounts for ceasefire in Gaza

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Benjamin Netanyahu

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday vowed to press ahead with Tel Aviv's offensive and blasted a UN Security Council resolution calling for a pause in the fighting, saying it had emboldened Hamas to reject a separate proposal for a ceasefire and hostage release.

As the war in Gaza grinds through a sixth month, each side has publicly insisted that its own idea of victory is in reach and rejected international efforts to stem the bloodshed.

Mr. Netanyahu has said Israel can achieve its aims of dismantling Hamas and returning scores of hostages if it expands its ground offensive to the southern city of Rafah, where over half of Gaza's population has sought refuge, many in crowded tent camps.

Hamas has said it will hold onto the hostages until Israel agrees to a more permanent ceasefire, withdraws its forces from Gaza and releases hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, including top militants.

'Hamas lacks interest'

It said late on Monday that it has rejected a recent proposal that fell short of those demands – which, if fulfilled, would allow it to claim an extremely costly victory.

Mr. Netanyahu said in a statement that the announcement "proved clearly that Hamas is not interested in continuing negotiations toward a deal and served as unfortunate testimony to the damage of the Security Council decision."

"Israel will not surrender to Hamas's delusional demands and will continue to act to achieve all the goals of the war: releasing all the hostages, destroying Hamas' military and governing capabilities and ensuring that Gaza will never again be a threat to Israel."

The war has killed over 32,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The fighting has left much of the Gaza Strip in ruins, displaced most its residents and driven a third of its population of 2.3 million to the brink of famine.

Five Chinese killed in Pak. suicide bombing

Associated Press
PESHAWAR

A suicide bomber in northwest Pakistan rammed his explosive-laden car into a vehicle on Tuesday, killing five Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver, the police and government officials said.

The attack happened in Shangla, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the local police chief said.

He added that the five killed were construction workers and engineers heading to the Dasu Dam, the biggest hydropower project in Pakistan, where they worked.

Rise in attacks

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province borders Afghanistan.

The Pakistani Taliban have stepped up attacks there in recent years.

EU asks big tech firms to identify AI deepfakes ahead of elections in June

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

The move is part of a law to tackle risks to elections, including disinformation, across the continent

The EU called on Facebook, TikTok and other tech titans on Tuesday to crack down on deepfakes and other AI-generated content by using clear labels ahead of Europe-wide polls in June.

The recommendation is part of a raft of guidelines published under a landmark content law by the European Commission for digital giants to tackle risks to elections including disinformation.

Its biggest tool is the Digital Services Act (DSA) under which the bloc has designated 22 digital platforms as "very large" including Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube and X.

Clear warnings

In the new guidelines, the commission said the largest platforms "should assess and mitigate specific risks linked to AI, for example by clearly labelling content generated by AI (such as deepfakes)".

The commission recommends that big platforms promote official information on elections.

While the guidelines are not legally binding, platforms must explain what other "equally effective" measures they are taking to limit the risks.

The commission also said political advertising "should be clearly labelled as such" before a tougher law on the issue comes into force in 2025.

'Crew of Baltimore ship were all Indians'

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK

The entire 22-member crew of the cargo ship that struck a major bridge in Baltimore in the U.S. early on Tuesday, causing it to snap and plunge into the river, are Indians who alerted authorities about a "power issue" before the collision. The Singapore-flagged container ship *Dali* collided with one of the pillars of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore at approximately 1:30 am local time.

According to the vessel information provided by the Synergy Marine Group, the crew was "all Indian, 22 in total". "All crew members, including the two pilots, have been accounted for and there are no reports of any injuries. There has also been no pollution," it said.

Sport

Afghanistan deals a blow on India's qualification hopes

FIFA WC QUALIFIERS

Amitabha Das Sharma
GUWAHATI

Keen fight: Chhetri and Afghanistan's Rahmat Akbari vie for possession. AFP

India's bid to qualify for the third round of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers suffered a big blow as the visiting Afghanistan inflicted a 2-1 defeat in a second round Group A match at the Indira Gandhi Stadium here on Tuesday.

Sunil Chheri's 94th international goal from a 36th minute penalty in his 150th appearance gave India the leverage in the opening session. But this advantage was lost in the second half, when the Afghans regrouped well to find two goals and turn the tables on India.

Chhetri could have put India ahead in the third minute, but his attempt on a half turn came off the post and Manvir Singh could not keep his effort on target despite getting the rebound close to the Afghanistan goal. India showed the energy and the intent initially to pin the Afghans back, but that did not last long as the visitor replied with sharp counter-attacks and created two quick openings that Indian goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu had to save.

Chheri's 94th international goal from a 36th minute penalty in his 150th appearance gave India the leverage in the opening session

Westwood, the current Afghanistan coach, has experience of coaching Indian clubs and used that experience well in guiding his players

In the seventh minute, Sandhu palmed over a header from the Afghanistan captain Haroon Amiri before blocking an attempt from forward Omid Popalzay.

India struggled to find a solution to Afghanistan's physical play. Ashley Westwood, the current Afghanistan coach, has fair experience of coaching in a number of Indian clubs and seemed to use that experience well in guiding his players.

The change of ends saw Afghanistan arriving with a greater resolve as India tried to preserve the lead with a defensive approach. This did not help much as Afghanistan tried to open up gaps in the India defence with a high-press. It finally found the equaliser in the 70th minute when Rahmat Akbari's powerful drive found its way in. Afghanistan kept up the pressure and earned a penalty in the 88th minute that was converted by Sharif Mukhammad.

India remains on four points from four matches, needing to win its next outing against Kuwait, which it will host on June 6.

The result: India 1 (Chhetri 36-pen) lost to Afghanistan 2 (Rahmat Akbari 70, Sharif Mukhammad 88-pen).

Milestone: Chhetri being honoured before the match. PTI

Chhetri felicitated ahead of 150th match

Press Trust of India
GUWAHATI

Sunil Chhetri was felicitated by the AIFF for appearing in his 150th international game, against Afghanistan on Tuesday.

AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, Assam Football Association secretary Sangrang Brahma, AIFF's technical committee chairperson I.M. Vijayan were among the dignitaries who presented mementos.

Chhetri, 39, first donned the senior national jersey on June 12, 2005, in a friendly against Pakistan in Quetta and also scored. He holds the unique record of scoring at least once in his first, 25th, 50th, 75th, 100th and 125th match for the Blue Tigers. He marked his 150 appearance with another goal.

ALLROUND SHOW

We had to produce a performance like this against Gujarat: Ruturaj

S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

"Tuesday's game was near-perfect as we clicked in all three departments — batting, bowling and fielding. We had to produce this kind of performance against a team like Gujarat," said Chennai Super Kings skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad after the resounding 63-run win over Titans.

EXCITING TIMES

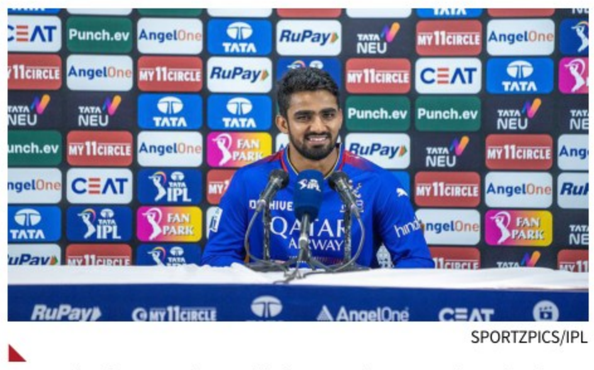
'New learnings, new experiences' for Titans skipper Gill

AP

Shubman Gill, who took charge of Gujarat Titans, won his opening match against Mumbai Indians on Sunday. However, the side came a cropper against Chennai Super Kings on Sunday. "Lot of new learnings, new experiences and different things. It's exciting to captain a team like Gujarat Titans," said Gill.

ALWAYS READY

Mahipal Lomror aces 'weird' role, adds depth to RCB batting



SPORTZPICS/IPL

His maiden foray into the world of Impact Players taught Mahipal Lomror how "weird" that role could be. "It (Impact Player) was quite weird when I went in to bat. The rule is such that you have to be ready as you can get a call at any time to go in," said Lomror. "The management had discussed it last night. So mentally, I was prepared."

PATIENCE PAYS

It will take Hardik some time to adapt to MI dressing room: Balaji

ANI

CSK's bowling coach L. Balaji says it will take some time for Hardik to earn the 'trust' of the MI dressing room. "For Hardik to win the whole dressing room is very important and trust needs to be earned. It will take some time to adapt and accept. It's better to have a friend in the winning, rather than a losing front."

Super Kings put on a regal display to subdue Titans with consummate ease

Dube, Ravindra, and Ruturaj conjure up delightful knocks before the home bowlers stifle the visitors and strike with regularity to fashion 63-run win

IPL-17

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Like most Indian venues, Chepauk is used to the chants of 'Sachin, Sachin' while cheering the nation's most celebrated cricketer, Sachin Tendulkar, in his playing days.

Figuring in only his second IPL match, Rachin Ravindra found a way into the hearts of the city's passionate fans, who quickly belted out 'Rachin, Rachin' as the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) opener produced another impressive cameo that laid the foundation for the defending champion's thumping 63-run win over Gujarat Titans at the MAC Stadium on Tuesday.

His rapid 46 (20b, 6x4, 3x6), followed by fellow-southpaw Shivam Dube's 23-ball 51 (2x4, 5x6), powered CSK to 206 for six after being asked to bat.

Early setback

The Titans' batters never looked like chasing it down after Deepak Chahar removed openers Shubman Gill and Wriddhiman Saha inside the PowerPlay.

B. Sai Sudharsan and David Miller tried to forge a fightback, adding 41 runs for the fourth wicket, but the former struggled to get the big shots going as the CSK pacers kept a tight leash on proceedings.

Surprisingly, the home team used only one spinner – Ravindra Jadeja – with pacer Matheesha Pathirana playing in the second half as an 'Impact Player' in place of Dube. Once Tushar Deshpande accounted for David Miller and Azmatullah Omarzai, both caught in the deep, the writing was on the wall for the visitors.

Earlier, Ravindra smashed Titans' pacers Umesh Yadav and Omarzai all over the park with the typical elegance associated with left-handers. He started by flicking Umesh off his hips for a six, over square leg, to signal his intentions, and from there on, was pretty much unstoppable.

The 24-year-old played some delectable shots, with clean hits down the ground and when the bowlers pitched short, he pulled them into the stands with disdain.

Then, Dube, the Super Kings' designated batter to take on spinners, played his role to perfection, lofting R. Sai Kishore for consecutive sixes off the first two balls he faced before dispatching Rashid into the crowd by getting down on his knee and using his long reach to telling effect.

Sameer Rizvi gave the Chennai innings the final flourish as he swept Rashid, who got a pounding on the day, for a six off the first ball he faced before launching him over long-off to take the host past 200, a score well beyond Gujarat's reach.

Playing his part: Dube took a liking to the spinners while notching up a half-century in quick time. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Ruturaj Gaikwad c Saha b Johnson 46 *(36b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Rachin Ravindra st. Saha b Rashid 46 *(20b, 6x4, 3x6)*, Ajinkya Rahane st. Saha b Sai Kishore 12 *(12b)*, Shivam Dube c Vijay Shankar b Rashid 51 *(23b, 2x4, 5x6)*, Daryl Mitchell (not out) 24 *(20b, 2x4)*, Sameer Rizvi c Miller b Mohit 14 *(6b, 2x6)*, Ravindra Jadeja run out 7 *(3b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-5): 6; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 206.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-62 (Ravindra, 5.2 overs), 2-104 (Rahane, 10.1), 3-127 (Ruturaj, 12.3), 4-184 (Dube, 18.2), 5-199 (Rizvi, 19.3), 6-206 (Jadeja, 19.6).

TITANS BOWLING
Omarzai 3-0-30-0, Umesh 2-0-27-0, Rashid 4-0-49-2, Sai Kishore 3-0-28-1, Johnson 4-0-35-1, Mohit 4-0-36-1.

GUJARAT TITANS
Wriddhiman Saha c Deshpande b Deepak Chahar 21 *(17b, 4x4)*, Shubman Gill lbw b Deepak Chahar 8 *(5b, 1x6)*, Sai Sudharsan (**Impact Player in place of Mohit**) c Rizvi b Pathirana 37 *(31b, 3x4)*, Vijay Shankar c Dhoni b Mitchell 12 *(12b, 1x6)*, David Miller c Rahane b Deshpande 21 *(16b, 3x4)*, Azmatullah Omarzai c Ravindra b Deshpande 11 *(10b, 1x4)*, Rahul Tewatia c Ravindra b Mustafizur 6 *(11b, 1x4)*, Rashid Khan c Ravindra b Mustafizur 1 *(2b)*, Umesh Yadav (not out) 10 *(11b, 1x6)*, Spencer Johnson (not out) 5 *(5b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-2, w-9): 11; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 143.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-28 (Gill, 2.5), 2-34 (Saha, 4.3), 3-55 (Vijay Shankar, 7.3), 4-96 (Miller, 11.5), 5-114 (Sai Sudharsan, 14.5), 6-118 (Omarzai, 15.2), 7-121 (Rashid, 16.2), 8-129 (Tewatia, 18.2).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING
Deepak Chahar 4-0-28-2, Mustafizur 4-0-30-2, Deshpande 4-0-21-2, Jadeja 2-0-15-0, Mitchell 2-0-18-1, Pathirana (**Impact Player in place of Dube**) 4-0-29-1.

Toss: Titans; **PoM:** Dube.
CSK won by 63 runs.

Next assignment

GT: March 31 vs **SRH**
Ahmedabad, 3.30 p.m.

CSK: March 31 vs **DC**
Visakhapatnam, 7.30 p.m.

Kohli says he relished the time spent with family ahead of IPL

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Kohli. K. MURALI KUMAR

As the years roll by, Virat Kohli has evolved both on and off the field.

Now a family man, a father of two, Kohli carries the demeanour of a wise senior statesman.

With bat in hand, Kohli changed his game to keep up with modern demands. This was exemplified in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's win over Punjab Kings (PBKS) here on Monday. Knowing fully well that Kohli can crush anything full, the PBKS pacers kept it on length or just short, but that did not stop Kohli from dancing down the track and creaming it on the up.

At the post-match ceremony, Kohli spoke eloquently about the couple of months he spent with his family abroad and away from the sport.

"We were at a place where people did not recognise us. Just time together as a family, just to feel normal for two months... it was a surreal experience. Having two kids, things become totally different. The chance to be together, the connections that you make with your older child, it is amazing," Kohli said.

On those magnificent shots over cover, Kohli explained that it is all about making additions to his game. "People know I play the cover drive pretty well, so they're not going to allow me to hit gaps. So if they're hitting length, you have to create some momentum. Once you're closer to the ball, you negate the bounce by meeting it earlier," Kohli said.

Having spent his entire IPL career with RCB, the 35-year-old has forged a strong bond with the city.

"When you look back, you're not going to think of numbers and stats. It's the memories that you create. (India head coach) Rahul (Dravid) *bhai* in the change room nowadays says exactly the same. When you play, you play your heart out because you're going to miss these times when you are with your friends in the change room playing in front of fans," Kohli said.

After a placid 20-ball 21 in the season opener against Chennai Super Kings, Kohli came up with a rapid knock on Monday.

"I know my name is nowadays attached to just promoting the game in many parts of the world when it comes to T20s. But I've still got it, I guess," Kohli said, to loud approval from the RCB faithful.

Sunrisers, Mumbai Indians would look to put behind the disappointment of round one

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Stung by reverses in their season openers, former champions Sunrisers Hyderabad and Mumbai Indians, will clash at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Wednesday with both teams looking to regain the winning touch.

Mumbai captain Hardik Pandya would be under a bit of pressure after all the hype on his taking over leadership from Rohit Sharma.

Despite the first round losses, the teams can take heart in the performance of a few of its players.

The young South African sensation Dewald Brevis showed his class and Naman Dhir was promising against Gujarat Titans for the Mumbai side.

For Sunrisers, openers Mayank Agarwal and Abhishek Sharma looked in fine touch before Heinrich Klaasen nearly won it for the Hyderabad team against KKR.

Sunrisers would hope Aiden Markram fires as the Indian players like Rahul Tripathi, Abdul Samad and Shahbaz Ahmed tend to falter after good starts.

The Sunrisers bowling is spearheaded by Bhuvneshwar Kumar, captain Pat Cummins, left-armer T. Natarajan and Marco Jansen in pace and Shahbaz Ahmed and leggie Mayank Markande in spin.

MI would expect vital contributions from Rohit, Ishan Kishan, Brevis and Dhir at the top. Then local hero Tilak Varma, big-hitting Tim David and Hardik can take over to help the team to a big total.

Promising start: Mayank and Rohit were in good touch in their opening games. K.R. DEEPAK

Today's match

Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
PLAYED: 21
SRH 9 | MI 12

PREVIOUS MEETING
MI won by eight wickets, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA

Mumbai, which paid heavily for not looking for quick runs against Gujarat Titans, should look to change its strategy.

In bowling, not surprisingly Jasprit Bumrah holds the key with Hardik, Luke Wood and Gerald Coetzee sharing the new ball. MI would look up to the spin duo of Shams Mulani and Piyush Chawla to control the crucial middle-overs by providing breakthroughs.

'We have a lot of bench strength, can't fit everyone'

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

"The team doesn't entirely depend on the two strong international batters Aiden Makram and Heinrich Klaasen as was evident by the way the openers started so brilliantly in the first game against Kolkata Knight Riders," Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Pat Cummins said.

"We have a lot of bench strength and can't fit everyone. We are pretty well balanced to be able to pick other four players (from the foreign pool) who are the best we think, depending on the conditions," Cummins said on the eve of the match against Mumbai Indians.

"Bhuvi is a seasoned pro, can get big wickets early and bowl quality overs at the death as well. As a captain I am lucky to have that flexibility," he said.

"We look at the entire bowling unit of Mumbai Indians and not just at Bumrah who is a quality bowler. You might not be as aggressive against him as against others. The batting group will talk about how to tackle him," he said.

MI's top-order batter Dewald Brevis said he doesn't want to copy anyone and wanted to be just himself. On Hardik Pandya's captaincy, he said that the team environment was very bright and in good space.

Getting a grip on it: Kishan is a keen listener as Tendulkar provides valuable tips. K.R. DEEPAK

INBRIEF

Sathiyan in 60th spot, Sreeja rises to career-high 40

G. Sathiyan on Tuesday leapfrogged 43 places to 60th while Sreeja Akula rose to a career-high 40th in the ITTF world rankings, following their WTT Feeder Series title triumphs last week. Sathiyan, who has a career-best ranking of 24, had dropped out of the top-100 recently. The title in Beirut earned him 125 points. Veteran Sharath Kamal, who dropped a place to 35th, continues to be the top-ranked Indian. Manav Thakkar and Harmeet Desai also find themselves in the top-100. Manika Batra held on to the 38th spot in the women's singles while Archana Kamath advanced 13 places to 99th.

Bopanna-Ebden combine makes the quarterfinals

Top seeds Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden beat Hugo Nys and Jan Zielinski 7-5, 7-6(3) in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the $10,404,205 ATP Masters tennis tournament in Miami on Monday. Bopanna and Ebden had scraped 4-6, 7-6(4), [10-4] against Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori in the opening round. Yuki Bhambri and Michael Venus, lost 7-6(5), 6-4 to second seeds Ivan Dodig and Austin Krajicek in the first round.

The results: $10,404,205 ATP Masters, Miami: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Rohan Bopanna & Matthew Ebden (Aus) bt Hugo Nys (Mon) & Jan Zielinski (Pol) 7-5, 7-6(3).
First round: Bopanna & Ebden bt Simone Bolelli & Andrea Vavassri (Ita) 4-6, 7-6(4), [10-4]; Ivan Dodig (Cro) & Austin Krajicek (USA) bt Yuki Bhambri & Michael Venus (Nzl) 7-6(5), 6-4.

Nottingham lodges appeal against four-point penalty

Nottingham Forest lodged an appeal on Monday against the four-point penalty imposed by the English Premier League last week for breaching the competition's financial rules. Forest confirmed the course of action it has taken. It was in contrast to a lengthy and indignant response published by Forest when the sanction was handed out. It was found to have breached the profitability and sustainability regulations.

ENGAGEMENTS

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Tennis: Miami Open, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday).

Harmanpreet, Sreejesh, Savita in line for honours

A total of 32 nominations have made the shortlist from eight different categories for a total prize purse of ₹7.56 crore for the Hockey India annual awards

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Deserving: Harmanpreet, Sreejesh and Savita have been nominated for the Player of the Year Awards in men's and women's categories. FILE PHOTOS: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM, M. VEDHAN AND BISWARANJAN ROUT

Veteran goalkeepers P.R. Sreejesh and Savita Punia are in contention for the Player of the Year honours in the men's and women's categories respectively as Hockey India (HI) unveiled nominees for its annual awards to be presented here on March 31.

Sreejesh, a former captain, and Savita have been among the most consistent performers for India and have also been nominated for the Goalkeeper of the Year Award. The Indian men's captain and defender Harmanpreet Singh has also been shortlisted in two categories. He will be in contention for the Player of the Year and Defender of the Year Awards.

The Player of the Year Award in both categories carries a prize of ₹25 lakh each, while the goalkeeping trophy is worth ₹5 lakh.

A total of 32 nominations have made the shortlist from eight different categories for a total prize purse of ₹7.56 crore, HI said in a release. The Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men) and Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Women), for under-21 players, offers cash prize of ₹10 lakh each.

The nominees:

Goalkeeper of the Year: H.S. Mohith, P.R. Sreejesh, Savita Punia, Krishan Bahadur Pathak.

Defender of the Year: Deep Grace Ekka, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh, Udita.

Midfielder of the Year: Salima Tete, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Navneet Kaur.

Forward of the Year: Vandana Kataria, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Mandeep Singh.

Upcoming Player of the Year (u 21): Men: Uttam Singh, Amir Ali, Vishnukant Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal; **Women:** Vaishnavi Viththal Phalke, Deepika, Deepika Soreng, Sunelita Toppo.

Player of The Year: Men: P.R. Sreejesh, Abhishek, Hardik Singh, Harmanpreet Singh; **Women:** Savita Punia, Salima Tete, Vandana Kataria, Navneet Kaur.

MOC approves financial assistance for Bajrang

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry on Tuesday approved wrestler Bajrang Punia's request for financial assistance and also extended the tenure of his strength and conditioning coach Kazi Kiron Mustafa Hasan till end of May even though he is out of contention for the Paris Olympics this year.

Bajrang had failed to finish in the top-four of the 65kg category at the recent trials to select the squads for the Asian Championships and Asian Olympic Qualifiers next month.

The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) also approved TT player Sreeja Akula's request for financial assistance to train in Chinese Taipei under coach Liu Jun-Lin for 12 days.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Mysore Vijayanagar holds RV FC

Mysore Vijayanagar drew 2-2 with RV FC in a KSFA 'C' division league match.

The results:

KSFA 'C' division: Mysore Vijayanagar 2 (Abhay Swaroop 32, P. Chiranth 49) drew with RV 2 (Jai Nam 37, Rifa Ali Nadaf 46); DB United 1 (Harish Selvaraj 41) bt United Aces 0; TAL 3 (Abhimanyu Singh 13, Kelhoukhriezhill Rame 23, S. Shashank 51) bt Footlong 1 (Rohan 7); Blue Star 2 (Syed Ashik 15, 31) bt Global 0.

BDFA 'B' div: Al Fateh 3 (Lingam Sangei 40, L. Bharnikumar 66, 70+2) bt Tilak Memorial 2 (S. Ranjith 5, N. Nutan 23); Bangalore Warriors 2 (P. Harish 36, Kaviarasan 69) drew with Stride 2 (Abhishek Dass 47, Bhanu Bhanu 70+4); Vehicles 3 (Surya Prakash 44, B. Santhosh 50, S. Uday 70) bt Veterans 2 (Pradeep Kumar 27, Keerthi Akash 66).

'C' div: Rovers 8 (Muhammed Shahzin 6, 25, Likit Sagar 14, 28, 34, Tushar 24, 53, Abhishek 40) bt Vivekananda 0; Young Gems 4 (Kipa Harming 29, Umesh 47, 53, Srajan Shetty 60+2) bt City Club 1 (Goulum 10).

Kohli and Rohit both know the formula to earn one final hurrah

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

The T20 format evolves so rapidly that it is possible a batter's experience might actually work against him. In the debate over whether to choose both stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma for the World T20 in June, this is the philosophical conundrum India's selectors grapple with.

In sport, the more you play the better you get at what you are doing. A spinner like Ravichandran Ashwin, who turns 38 this year, has more tricks up his sleeve than he had a decade ago. Kohli and Rohit understand their batting better than they did a decade ago.

In the five-day game, a batter has to necessarily find the balance between attack and defence, and a lot of elements go into finding that balance. Experience, instinct, the ability to see a situation develop, the skill to read a bowler and get into his head over a long period are only some of these.

In Test cricket, memory is important. This enables pattern-recognition and the honing of the skill to react to different situations in a practised, trained manner. A coach in the old days would say: "If you have only one stroke, the square cut, play it every time the bowler pitches short."

In T20, the batter is expected to have the gift of forgetfulness. If you square cut the bowler the last time he pitched short, forget that the next time he does and swing him over midon. Let each ball be a new experience. The past isn't as important as the present. Experience can sometimes be a weight around the neck of the batter (not so much the bowler, but that's another story).

Watching young batters come through the system over the years in the IPL, untroubled by what was, unconcerned by what will be has been one of the features of the tournament. Unexpectedness is key. Flexibility is vital. Those who have been around for a few years – even the ones with the best records like Shikhar Dhawan or David Warner – know that the motto is adapt or perish, and adapt quickly.

When Brendon McCullum startlingly exposed the possibilities of the tournament in its very first match with a ground-breaking 158 off 73 balls for KKR against RCB, it was the "spark that set the IPL's inaugural season alight," in the words of Lalit Modi, now in the doghouse but once the czar of the IPL.

It was also an innings that gave the tournament a false tenet. It quickly came to be known as a batter's game, and it was sometime before it was recognised that winning teams actually had good bowling attacks. RCB, who soon invested in three of the best T20 batters of the time – Chris Gayle, A.B. de Villiers and Virat Kohli – didn't win the tournament then, or indeed in any of its 16 years.

Sometimes too much knowledge can be a handicap, as experienced batters are aware of the many ways of getting out. And not always amenable to change. Younger players unburdened by such knowledge, don't know enough to be worried. They are more comfortable at the other end of the scale, striking with the confidence that comes naturally to youth. They know no other way to bat.

In his 49-ball 77 in Bengaluru, Kohli attacked the Punjab Kings bowlers with a mixture of sound shots and innovative ones. Over the years he has showed he can score at 140 without straining himself excessively, and without having to invent shots. He uses the ones available in the textbook well enough.

He opened the batting, which is something he has done nine times for India (strike rate 161), and where he might fit in best with Rohit Sharma. These are early days yet, and the selectors will need more data before deciding.

Rohit Sharma, who is set to lead, turns 37 next month, Kohli is 36 in November. When India won the World T20 in 2007, they went without their top international batters. But things have changed a lot since then, and no one can be automatically eliminated now. Everyone adapts.

Rishabh Pant apart, the progress made by India's two best batters will be followed even more keenly as the IPL unfolds.

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